

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3397.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1892.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION of GREAT BRITAIN,
Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.

SIR ROBERT STAWELL BALL, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., Lowndean Professor of Astronomy in the University of Cambridge, will deliver a COURSE OF SIX LECTURES (adapted to a Juvenile Auditory) on 'ASTRONOMY', commencing on THURSDAY, 29, DECEMBER, 1892, at 3 o'clock, to be continued on December 30, 31, and January 1, 1893. Subscription (for Non-Members) to this Course, One Guinea (Children under sixteen, Half-a-Guinea); to all the Courses in the Season, Two Guineas. Tickets may now be obtained at the Institution.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—

The SECOND MEETING of the SESSION will be held on WEDNESDAY NEXT, December 7th, at 32, Sackville-street, Piccadilly, W. Chair, to be taken at 8 p.m. Antiquities will be exhibited, and the following Paper read:—

'Have I found the Site of the Roman Station, Bibracte?' by the late T. W. Grover, Esq., F.S.A.

To be read by C. H. Compton, Esq., V.P.

W. DE GRAY BIRCH, F.S.A. } Honorary
E. P. LOFTUS BROOK, F.S.A. } Secretaries.

ROYAL SOCIETY of PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.— THE THIRTY-FIRST WINTER EXHIBITION of SKETCHES AND STUDIES is NOW OPEN, 5, Pall Mall East, from 10 till 8.—Admission 1s.; Catalogue 6d.

ALFRED D. FRIPP, R.W.S., Secretary.

THE SUBSCRIBERS to the HORTON MEMORIAL FUND are hereby informed that a MEMORIAL MASS, the work of Messrs. Barkent & Kral, of Regent-street, has now been placed to the satisfaction of the Master in the Chapel of Peterborough Cathedral, and that the Bankers of the Fund are anxious to receive 10s. 6d. after payment for the Brass and meeting the slight incidental expenses, has been paid over under a scheme agreed upon by the Council of University College, London, in trust to found a HORTON SCHOLARSHIP in University College School, in accordance with the wishes of the Subscribers. GEORGE BUCHANAN, M.D. November 29th, 1892.

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, CHICAGO, 1893.

DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS.

If those of the American Artists resident in England who purpose exhibiting their works at the Columbian will send their Names and Addresses to the undersigned, care of Mr. James Bouriet, 17, Nassau-street, Middlesex Hospital, circulars of particulars and conditions will be forwarded to them.

EDWIN A. ABREY,
Special Advisory Commissioner for England.

TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of ORIENTALISTS.

His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway has offered a GOLD MEDAL for the best ESSAY on the following Subject:—A Comparative Study of the Grammatical Forms of the Rig-Veda, Yajur-Veda, Sama-Veda, and Athior-Veda, distinguishing the Forms peculiar to the Mantras, Brahmanas, and Upanishads.

MSS. should be sent Registered (with name of the writer in a sealed envelope) to Prof. F. MAX MÜLLER, Oxford, not later than October 1st, 1893. The following Gentlemen have consented to co-operate as Judges: Prof. Lamartine, of Harvard College; M. Victor Henri, of the Paris University; and Prof. Oldenberg, of Kiel University.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of the UNITED KINGDOM, 20, Hanover-square, W.

The PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION for LIBRARY ASSISTANTS will be held on DECEMBER 19th, 20th, and 21st, at Local Centres, to suit the convenience of Candidates.

The PROVISIONAL or ADVANCED EXAMINATION will be held on the same days, at 20, Hanover-square, W.

No Entrance Fee. Candidates must send in their names to the undersigned not later than December 7th.

J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER, Hon. Sec.

FRANCESCA: Roadside Songs of Tuscany.

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Further information may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom applications, stating age, qualifications, and experience, with copies or prints of testimonials, must be sent on or before Monday, the 2nd day of December, 1893, marking Application for Appointment of Head Master of Hymers' College. Copying will be disallowed.

B. HILL DAWE, Secretary to the Governors.

Town Hall, Hull, November 30, 1892.

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FRIDAY NEXT.—Photographic and Miscellaneous Property.

MR. J. C. STEVENS will SELL by AUCTION,
at their Great Rooms, 38, King-street Covent-garden, on FRIDAY
NEXT, December 1, at half past 11 o'clock precisely, CARRIAGES and
LENSSES, SILVER, PLATE, Camera Cases, Chemical Apparatus, other Photographic
Apparatus—Microscopes and Microscopic Appliances—Dis-
olving-View and Magic Lanterns, and a quantity of Slides—Electrical
Apparatus—Opera and Race Glasses—Curios—and various Miscellaneous
Property.

On view the day prior to till 5 and morning of Sale, and Catalogues
had.

Valuable Miscellaneous Books, including two Private Libraries.

MESSRS. HODGSON will SELL by AUCTION,
at their Rooms, 115, Chancery-lane, W.C., on MONDAY,
December 4, at 10 o'clock, valuable LAW BOOKS (as above), including
a complete set of the NEW LAW REPORTERS, and another set 1855 to 1890, 220 vols.; and
another Series, 1865 to 1882—Law Journal Reports, 1852 to 1890—Reports
in Common Law and Equity—De Gex and Smale—Small and Giffard—
Kay and Johnson—Hemmings and Miller—Dow's House of Lords Cases—
Swabey and Lushington's Admiralty Reports—Notes of Cases in
Ecclesiastical and Maritime Courts, 7 vols.—and the usual Books of
Reference and Practice—a neat Oak Library Table, small Glazed Book-
case, Chairs, &c.

To be viewed, and Catalogues had.

**Valuable Law Books, including the Professional Library of the
late R. WINTLE WINTLE, of No. 5, Stone Buildings, Bouverie-
Court, and Chancellor of the Diocese of Chichester
(by order of the Executor).**

MESSRS. HODGSON will SELL by AUCTION,
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case, Chairs, &c.

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MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON & WOODS
respectfully give notice that they will hold the following SALES
at their Great Rooms, King-street, St. James's-square, the Sales commencing
at 11 o'clock precisely—

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Property of a GENTLEMAN; Jewellery, Plate, and Objects of Vertu.

On WEDNESDAY, December 7, OLD ENGLISH
and FOREIGN SILVER and SILVER-GILT PLATE, the Property of
a GENTLEMAN.

On THURSDAY, December 8, DECORATIVE
FURNITURE, PICTURES, PORCELAIN, and OBJECTS OF ART, the
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DECORATIVE OBJECTS, the Property of the late DOWAGER
COUNTNESS of STRAFFORD.

On FRIDAY, December 9, and Following Day,
a FURTHER PORTION of the valuable COLLECTION of MODERN
PICTURES and WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS of Mr. H. W. WALLS,
deceased.

On MONDAY, December 12, and Four Following
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1892.

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LITERATURE

The Life of William Cowper. By Thomas Wright. (Fisher Unwin.)

MR. WRIGHT'S task would have been simpler if Southey had not written Cowper's life, for if Southey was a poet of the third class, he was an admirable biographer. Much new material of which Southey knew nothing has been at Mr. Wright's disposal, but he has failed to turn it to the best account. The art of putting things is one at which few are adepts, and Mr. Wright cannot be numbered among them. His writing is sadly wanting in both grace and finish. He says what he has to say in a straightforward fashion; but his pages are not fascinating, and he would have done well to break his narrative into chapters, rather than produce over two hundred numbered paragraphs.

Turning from the manner in which Mr. Wright works to the new matter which he communicates, we gladly acknowledge that he has been indefatigable in research and fortunate in his opportunities. He tells the reader several facts about Cowper which are new, and many which are interesting. Yet Cowper's secret, as it has been called, has not been elucidated so clearly as Mr. Wright may imagine. Many who have read about him, and all who have intently followed his career, have been somewhat puzzled with regard to the delusion which marred and embittered it. He had several temporary fits of insanity; but he was not wholly lucid in his feelings and opinions, even when he was supposed to be in his right mind. He lost a post in the House of Lords owing to a physical incapacity to undergo a public examination which would have been almost a matter of form. He preferred committing suicide to appearing at the bar of the House of Lords. His failure to face an ordeal which seems trifling was followed by his becoming the victim of the delusion that he was damned to all eternity—a delusion which had a crushing effect on a man who had a vivid imagination and thoroughly believed the popular eschatology. The problem of those who narrate his life has been to explain how this horrible mental state was engendered, and Mr. Wright holds that he can solve it and has done so.

The solution is found, according to Mr. Wright, in the following passage in a letter written by Cowper: "I had a

dream twelve years ago, before the recollection of which all consolation vanishes, and, it seems to me, must always vanish." In this dream he heard "a word" which, from references in his letters, is supposed to have been *Actum est de te, peristi.* Subsequently to this dream he regarded himself as a doomed man who was outside the pale of help or hope. This revelation does not leave the reader any wiser than before. Indeed, a careful consideration of Cowper's condition and experiences from manhood upwards must lead to the conclusion that he was always both eccentric and impressionable, and a fit subject for dreaming himself into the delusion under which he laboured. He had several slight attacks of insanity before his reason was wholly eclipsed for a time. His greatest misfortune was to be conscious of his morbid state, as happened, too, in the cases of Mary Lamb and George III. A passage in a letter to his cousin Harriet, afterwards Lady Hesketh, exemplifies this. It was written in 1763, when he was vainly trying to qualify himself for the clerkship in the House of Lords:—

"Oh, my good cousin! if I was to open my heart to you, I could show you strange sights....I am of a very singular temper, and very unlike all the men that I have ever conversed with. Certainly I am not an absolute fool, but I have more weaknesses than the greatest of all the fools I can recollect at present."

Mr. Wright has failed to notice, or he omits to point out, that Cowper's state after the terrible dream was less dreadful than might be supposed. No argument sufficed to remove, or even shake, Cowper's delusion; he firmly maintained that he was a castaway, that he was damned to all eternity, and he gave up going to church, praying, or saying grace at meat. Nevertheless, his life under these conditions was not a round of wretchedness. He was a cheerful companion; he delighted in the beauties of nature; he was not averse to the pleasures of the table; he wrote sprightly letters and much excellent verse. If he had a weakness it was making jokes and riddles, but many pious and sane men are chargeable with this.

Cowper had several fits of depression; he had a recurrence of his mental malady more than once, yet he entered his seventieth year before dying; and if he often suffered from minor ailments, the reason is not far to seek. It may be found in Mr. Wright's remark: "If a variety of physicians could have put him right, Cowper would certainly have got well. Few men, it may be assumed, consulted more doctors, or consumed more physic." He owed it, perhaps, to his country life that he lived so long. Retirement was better suited for his bodily health than he may have supposed, while it injured his mental health more than he would have readily admitted. In the bustle of a city he would have thought less of himself, though there he would not have been able to take that open-air exercise which kept him alive despite his endeavours to drug himself to death. He suffered much from indigestion and from what he called nervous fevers. The martyr to indigestion passes through purgatory in this world, and becomes the easy prey of the blackest fancies. Cowper's

endeavours to cure his nervous fevers probably aggravated his condition. His condition and his treatment of himself are thus described to Johnson in 1793—sentences which Mr. Wright would have done wisely to take into account:—

"I am a little better; the powders and the laudanum together have, for the present at least, abated the fever that consumes me; and in measure as the fever abates, I acquire a less discouraging view of things, and with it a little power to exert myself.....I was obliged to prepare myself for Rose's coming by a nightly dose of laudanum—twelve drops suffice; but without them I am devoured by melancholy."

Given Cowper's nervous and excitable temperament, and considering what he had to pass through, what wonder is it that he became hypochondriacal, that he frequently attempted to commit suicide, and that he was still more frequently depressed with melancholy! The medicines which he took were his bane. He suffered from the injudicious advice of the physicians of his soul and body. This point of view is the true one in considering his career, and it is one from which none of his biographers has contemplated it. If Mr. Wright had done so he would have made his picture of Cowper more lifelike.

Mr. Wright has, however, written a book which, while wanting in finish, shows complete sympathy with his subject. He sensibly remarks in the seventh chapter that, "had Cowper, like the generality of men, been under the necessity of spending at least some part of the day in getting a living, he would have escaped three quarters of the ills that he had the misfortune to endure." He led for a time a life of laborious and enervating idleness, and it was not till he began to work in earnest—first at the 'Task,' and secondly at turning Homer's hexameters into English blank verse—that he found a full use for his faculties, and, at the same time, a relief from the thoughts which beset and oppressed him. While his pen was that of a ready writer, what proceeded from it was pleasant reading, and he seldom framed a sentence or a stanza which was altogether ineffective. This is praise which cannot be honestly given to many who have written so much. The author of 'John Gilpin' was no common man, yet nothing appears easier to many people than to manufacture verses resembling that ballad. It is satisfactory to receive from the hand of Mr. Wright the true story of its genesis. The common and received one is that Cowper heard the story from Lady Austen when a melancholy fit was on him; that he brightened when the story was told, laughed heartily when it was finished, went to bed, and produced a rhymed version in the morning. Mr. Wright says that, when Cowper went to bed after hearing the story, he could not sleep, that he got up and turned his thoughts into rhyme, and showed Mrs. Unwin the crude result in the morning:—

"All that day and for several days he secluded himself in the greenhouse, and went on with the task of polishing and improving what he had written. As he filled his slips of paper he sent them across the Market Place to Mr. Wilson, to the great delight and merriment of that jocular barber, who on several other occasions had been favoured with the first sight of some of Cowper's smaller poems."

It seems that the real John Gilpin was John Beyer, a linendraper, who lived at 3, Cheapside; that he was born in 1693, and died in 1791. The notion prevails that the ballad did not become popular till after Henderson, the favourite comedian of his day, had recited it in public. The ballad itself was first published where the letters of Junius appeared, and ten years after he had ceased to write—in the *Public Advertiser*. Cowper wrote as follows in May, 1784, a year before Henderson recited the ballad in the Freemasons' Hall:—

"In the last packet but one that I received from Johnson, he asked me if I had any improvements of 'John Gilpin' in hand, or if I designed any; for that to print only the original again would be to publish what has been hackneyed in every magazine, in every newspaper, and in every street."

Five months later he recurred to the subject, and wrote:—

"'John Gilpin' has made a good deal of noise in the world; and perhaps it may not be amiss to show, that though I write generally with a serious intention, I know how to be occasionally merry. The critical reviewers charged me with an attempt of humour. John, having been more celebrated upon the score of humour than most pieces that have appeared in modern days, may serve to exonerate me from the imputation."

Mr. Wright might have added, by way of contrast, what Cowper wrote to Lady Hesketh two years later: "The grinners at 'John Gilpin' little dream what the author sometimes suffers. How I hated myself yesterday for ever having wrote it!"

There are not many instances of carelessness in Mr. Wright's pages, yet a few are scarcely excusable. Dean Burdon appears both in the text and index as "Burgeon," though once his name is correctly spelt. Such a word as "ramfeezled," though in a quotation, might have been explained, as not many readers may know that it means *wearied*. Writing of certain books which Cowper possessed, it is said that he "then owned them." When Cowper parted from Hayley and his son it is said that "his troubles gushed from his eyes, and then he was better." Hayley might have written in this way, but Mr. Wright ought to have been simpler in his language. He has done some service in showing more clearly than his predecessors have done how great a burden Mrs. Unwin was to Cowper in his declining years. She began as an affectionate nurse, and she ended as the plague of his life.

deeds and abstracts of title than to any other class of persons. In India the land revenue, which is certainly a payment levied in respect of land, whether technically a land tax or not, is all-pervading and of high importance, since it constitutes the great backbone of what we may ask leave to call the Anglo-Indian national resources. "The State," says Mr. Baden-Powell,

"derives its principal revenue from the land, it has done so at all times, and the people are accustomed to pay it: it is with them the very nature of things.....The population is so largely agricultural, and the different classes so wedded to custom, that the speculative administrator who should conceive the idea of getting rid of the land-revenue would soon find himself in a position of difficulty which language could hardly do justice to."

We would suggest, a position something like that of a Chancellor of the Exchequer in England who should try to frame a budget without any allusion to wine, spirits, or tobacco. Of course the principle of making the land support the Government did not originate with the English; it sprang up hundreds of years before they had a footing in India, and was handed down from one conquering race to another; so that when we came into possession, partly by conquest and partly by cession or other means, it was ready to our hands, and only required moulding to suit our purposes. But the moulding was no easy matter, because the material was heterogeneous, and, moreover, was decidedly strange to persons imbued with European ideas. Our early authorities, Mr. Baden-Powell remarks, disseminated the (mistaken) notion that Indian land tenures are unintelligible; they seem "only just to have heard of village tenures, and to have started with the idea, derived from Bengal, that all land must have *some landlord*, with tenants under him." The author, on the other hand, believes that a reasonable, if not a perfect knowledge of the land tenures may be attained by careful study and exercise of memory. The avowed object of his efforts is to furnish a guide to the Acts and Regulations which govern the systems under which the land revenue is now assessed and collected in various parts of India. Such a guide will, no doubt, be highly valued by Indian civil servants; but the part of the work most attractive to the general reader is that which describes the socio-political developments through which the land revenue system, after many fluctuations, came to exist as we found it.

In times but little, if at all, removed from barbarism, the Kolarian tribes came into India, and were influential enough to leave a tangible impress on that vast region. While in part absorbed by subsequent races of immigrants, they have remained in part separate, being still represented here and there by hill tribes of nomadic or shifting habits. The phase of "shifting cultivation" is intermediate between a life of mere wandering and hunting and a settled agricultural occupation; it consists in selecting and clearing a temporary resting-place, sowing and reaping one or two crops, and then migrating to another part of the country. In old times, it seems, Kolarian tribes occasionally formed themselves into such groups as modern writers have agreed to call "village communities";

but the organization was rude, and there was probably no ownership of land beyond the right of each clearer to occupy that which he had cleared. There was, however, a *manki*, or chief, to every tribal area, and a *mundá*, or headman, who disposed of lapsed property, to each village. These officers had lands of their own, but they also received gifts of grain from the ordinary landholders, and thus was sown the earliest seed of a land revenue system. Next came the Dravidian races, who were of a higher type than the Kolarians, and founded great states, with lordly *rājás* at their head. There was now an end to mere gifts of grain. Each *rājá* began by claiming the whole produce of certain special lands in each village; after a time this appeared insufficient, and he and his officers demanded and received a certain share of the grain raised by every ordinary (*i.e.*, non-official) landholder. This was really a land revenue, though still in rude and immature shape. The next immigration was that of an Aryan race, or aggregate of races, whom we now call Hindus. Originally a pastoral people, the Hindus seem to have mixed gradually with the Dravidians, and to have adopted their political formation, while at the same time, by reason either of greater numbers or of robust temperament (they came from more northern climes), they became the dominant race, effecting a species of Gothic or Norman conquest over the whole country. Distant as the parallel may seem in some respects, one cannot help being reminded of the half conquest, half assimilation of the barbarian hordes in the effete Roman Empire, and of the somewhat similar career of the Norsemen—French-speaking Norsemen, but full of the old Scandinavian spirit still—among our own disunited countrymen. There were many obvious points of distinction, no doubt, between the results of these several immigrations, but the main feature was the same in all—the conquering race swept away everything that offended it, but tacitly adopted whatever it found pleasant and convenient; and the Hindus, like the Dravidians, had their *rājás* or chiefs of the state, but the management of the state became more complicated. Under a *rājá* there were lesser chiefs, called *thikurs*, &c., who were allowed to reign almost independently over their own territories, while owing allegiance to the *rājá* as their superior lord; and thus a species of feudal system became established. A Chinese pilgrim of the seventh century saw (unless he was hoaxed by some cunning Hindu) the state barge of the Mahárájá of Kanauj drawn along by eighteen vassal *rājás*. History repeats itself; we have all heard in childhood of an Anglo-Saxon king who steered the eight-oar of his period down the Dee, while it was rowed by seven Celtic sovereigns and the King of Man. The typical Hindu *rājá* might be subject to a superior lord, but he was great in his own territory. Apart from a variety of other sources of revenue which advancing civilization had discovered, he took a share of the grain produce of all cultivated lands except such as he had granted out to lesser chiefs; and the lesser chiefs, in their turn, took a similar share within the limits of their respective fiefs. If a *rājá* died, his share of the grain went to his successor; but if he

The Land-Systems of British India: being a Manual of the Land-Tenures and of the Systems of Land-Rent Administration prevalent in the several Provinces. By B. H. Baden-Powell, C.I.E., F.R.S.E. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)

THE English reader unacquainted with the fiscal system pursued in India must get rid of all English notions before he can hope to form a proper conception of the subject. In England we hear of a land tax only as a slight impost affecting some estates and not others, bringing in no very large proportion of the national income—of more interest, perhaps, to lawyers who encounter its oddities in

was overcome in war the conqueror seized it, and, perhaps, allowed him to retain a proportion of it as a subject noble on condition of paying over the rest. In time it was found troublesome to have payments varying according to the amount of produce on each farm and in each year, and arrangements were sometimes made for fixed payments, the subject noble, who by this time was perhaps called a zamindár or talukdár, being left to make what he could out of his subordinate landholders, and thus becoming a kind of contractor or farmer of revenue. But it was only when the Semitic element gained the mastery that the system of fixed payments became universal. The great Mohammedan warriors, when they superseded the Hindu rájás as the rulers of India, accepted the rough machinery which they found existing, but imparted to it the methodical order and polish for which Islam has often been remarkable. Akbar, in the sixteenth century, introduced a regular settlement (to use the modern Anglo-Indian term) under which certain standards of assessment were laid down, and the Government's share of the produce was formally fixed, and might be paid either in kind or in money. As time went on the latter kind of payment was adopted universally, and thus, omitting details and exceptions which are almost innumerable, we have a rough popular view of the state of things which existed in 1765, when the British ráj commenced in Bengal, and when, to use the author's words, "a land-revenue assessed in money was, and had long been, the principal source of the State's wealth."

It may be imagined that the British administrators, as their sphere of operations gradually extended, found a good many difficulties in their way. Their honest wish, we believe, was to begin by collecting the revenue, either through the zamindars or great contractors, or otherwise, just as it ought to have been collected before; but the word *ought* was difficult to define. Mr. Baden-Powell tells us that Akbar's system came to them "not developed as it might have been by the practical wisdom of Oriental assessors, but as one which represented only a state of misrule and corruption." Old assessments could scarcely be fair in the majority of cases, and some rule for periodical revision might have been expected; but there was none, the only accepted canon of change being the simple, if not quite equitable principle that the ruling power might add to the assessment if it liked. The people were much burdened, for the zamindars were too highly assessed, and supplemented their own incomes by wringing all that they could out of their districts. They were under no obligation to keep detailed accounts, so long as they paid the revenue demanded of them, so that information respecting the rents of the raiyats, or subordinate landholders, was wanting. In a word, the Company's officers found a machine at work which was old and crazy, yet they were obliged to use it for the moment because no better machine had been constructed.

It would be impossible within our limits to give a detailed account of the changes which have produced regularity, and to some extent, we hope, contentment, where so much confusion and dissatisfaction had been

found prevailing; and we may say, parenthetically, that we can scarcely even allude to parts of India where the method of collection by zamindárs did not exist. Mr. Baden-Powell's field is so extensive that we can only travel, and that very rapidly, over a small portion of it. After a time of difficulty and insufficient investigation, a permanent settlement was organized under which the zamindárs were treated as proprietors or landlords, responsible to Government for fixed payments, which they discharged out of the moneys received by them from subordinate occupiers. The land was thus freed from the liability to increased taxation which had prevailed under Mohammedan rule; but it was found in time that permanently fixed payments had their disadvantages as well as their merits. Originally it was hoped that the zamindárs would promote extended cultivation, grant regular leases, and be content with moderate rents, so as to benefit the State as well as themselves by the general advance in the condition of the country; but the zamindárs proved indolent and grasping, and the wealth which came into their hands was frittered away instead of being husbanded. Matters were not improved by the circumstance that the various districts had been assessed to the revenue without any proper survey. It became evident in time that a new system must be introduced, based on some kind of rational estimate and liable to change according to the inevitable fluctuation of values. Such a system, called a temporary settlement, is now generally adopted, and the old method of permanent settlement, though still existing over considerable areas, is perhaps doomed to ultimate extinction.

The details of permanent and temporary settlements are given at full length in Mr. Baden-Powell's comprehensive work, which deals in turn with the various divisions of British India, beginning with Bengal and ending with Burma and the adjacent islands. Numerous maps illustrate the book in various ways—one, for instance, showing the sequence of territorial acquisition, another the incidence at the present time of the different systems of settlement. It need scarcely be said that these maps, which are remarkably clear, add greatly to the practical usefulness of the book. The introductory half-volume teems with interesting matter relating principally to bygone times; its perspicuity suffers, however, from repetitions and want of lucid arrangement. In his proposed "primer" or shorter manual, for the use of forest officers, &c., Mr. Baden-Powell may be advised to aim at a more methodical treatment. We may read a good many pages ostensibly relating to a particular subject without seeing exactly what the author is aiming at; but we generally find his conclusion somewhere, and it is fair to mention that he forms his own opinions. The knotty question, Is revenue rent or not? he decides in the negative, differing, apparently, from Sir Richard Temple, who considers the "best opinion" to be that it consists of a "portion of the rent." It is no part of the author's programme to discuss the question whether revenue is a land tax; Sir R. Temple calls it so without argument

or comment, though it can scarcely be a rent and a tax also. Probably Sir R. Temple's real meaning is that the revenue is now a tax, though it may represent, historically, a rent imposed in the remote past. As regards the position of *de facto* ownership in which our countrymen found the zamindárs, the author sensibly remarks that it may have arisen in many cases from grants of revenue made to chiefs or persons of importance, who, through want of supervision and control, were enabled ultimately to seize the right to the land itself. In the part of the work which relates to Moslem rule, Mr. Baden-Powell correctly asserts the principle of individual ownership of land according to Mohammedan law. It may be mentioned incidentally that Prof. Rumsey, in his "Moohummudan Law of Inheritance," gives references to the Hidáyá showing that it may be the subject of bequest, of descent *ab intestato*, of purchase and sale, of grant, and of composition; in other words, that (apart from the limit of testamentary power, which applies to *all* kinds of property) an individual has the same free power of dealing with it that he would have in England. In stating that Mohammedan law is in principle a law of joint succession, Mr. Baden-Powell is, we think, in error, though he is perfectly right in saying that a number of heirs often hold the property in an undivided condition. The division of "vested inheritances" (Sir William Jones's English designation of property thus held) forms one of the most interesting chapters in the very interesting subject of Mohammedan inheritance. Mr. Baden-Powell comes to the conclusion that, early laws and customs notwithstanding, the Hindu or Mohammedan king or state ultimately claimed in India to be the only owner or landlord of all land. Such a belief may have been a convenient precedent for John Company; but, after all, where full power of disposition is left to individual owners, the question of a paramount lordship is rather theoretical than practical.

We may conclude our notice of an important work with an amusing anecdote, extracted from one of the notes. In answer to a question propounded by a Mohammedan king to a learned *qâzî* (magistrate) as to the exaction of tribute from Hindus, the man of law declared, in effect, that tribute is imposed on infidels instead of death, and that it should therefore be exacted to the uttermost farthing, so as to resemble death as nearly as possible. The king rejoined, with grim humour, "You may perceive that, without reading learned books, I am in the habit of putting in practice that which has been enjoined by the Prophet."

THE CAPTURE OF BUDA.

Cornaro Frigyes velenczei követ jelentései Buda várának 1686 - ban történt ostromdról és visszavételéről. Magyar fordítással és történeti bevezetéssel ellátta Bubics Zsigmond. (Buda - Pest, A Kiadó Sajátja.)

WHEN it was arranged to celebrate the bicentenary of the capture of Buda, the Hungarian capital, from the Turks, Sigis-

mond Bubics, Bishop of Kassa, determined to participate in the celebration. This handsome volume is the result.

Visiting Venice in 1860, the bishop fell in with a manuscript volume purporting to furnish a contemporary narrative of the siege of Buda in 1686. Inquiry proved that the volume was merely a transcript, the original despatches of which it was a copy having been removed to Vienna in 1868, and preserved since then in the Imperial Archives. In 1886 the original volume was exhibited in the Historical Exhibition at Buda-Pesth. It consists chiefly of letters or despatches sent in 1686 by Federico Cornaro, the Venetian ambassador to the Court of Vienna, to the Doge Marcantonio Giustiniani. These documents have been carefully preserved, placed in chronological order, and bound into a volume; and Bishop Bubics, having obtained a transcript from them, written in Italian, has translated into Hungarian such portions as relate to the siege of Buda, justly deeming them of historic interest for his countrymen. He was not able to complete his labour of love in time for the bicentenary.

To many the recapture of the Hungarian capital after its bondage of nearly a century and a half may seem merely an incident in the great struggle for supremacy between the Christian and the Turk. Not only to Hungarians, however, but to Europeans generally, was the event of paramount importance. After Sobieski's triumphant relief of Vienna the siege of Buda must be regarded as the most noteworthy event in the great racial and religious struggle referred to. At the present time, when European politicians cannot stir without taking into account the same factors that had to be dealt with in 1686, this faithful, if not remarkably picturesque, contemporary narrative is of great value. These despatches were written by a man who was in a position to know the facts and weigh the consequences of the deeds he described. Cornaro was not with the besiegers, but resident in Vienna, but a youthful kinsman of his, Francesco Grimani, scion of the famous Venetian family of that name, was serving as a volunteer with the Christian army, and furnished him with frequent and lengthy records of the proceedings; he also received personal information from the Emperor Leopold and his ministers daily, and thus was enabled to obtain the earliest and most trustworthy accounts from the seat of war, and to know the secret negotiations between the contending powers.

Buda had been in the hands of the Turks since September, 1541, and its possession was a standing menace to Christendom. Sobieski's relief of Vienna in 1683 was the first real check to the Moslems' victorious march over Europe, and the expulsion of the Crescent from Buda completed their discomfiture. When the siege of the Hungarian capital was finally decided upon by the Christian powers, an army of 95,000 men, many of whom were volunteers, was collected from all parts of Europe and placed under the command of the most famous captains of the age. From the schedules of the leaders given in this volume, it is interesting to note that some bearing British names, such as the Duke of Berwick and

Lord Halifax, were among them. The new crusade was strongly supported by the Papacy, and in the dedication of this volume to the present Pope the editor refers not only to the large sums of money furnished by Papal dignitaries, but also to the measures they initiated for the health and comfort of the soldiers. He states that among other appliances for their benefit they even established ambulances and provided surgical assistance. If, as Bishop Bubics asserts, this care for their material wants drew many from Protestantism to the Catholic faith, it is scarcely to be marvelled at.

Nominally Charles of Lorraine was commander-in-chief of the combined forces, but Maximilian of Bavaria and other rivals and contemporaries of high rank disobeyed his commands, and even deliberately thwarted his plans; and doubtless the place, despite the strength of its fortifications and the skill and courage of its defenders, would have succumbed much sooner than it did, but for the divided counsels and continual alterations of the besiegers. The siege began on the 18th of June, 1686, and continued until the 2nd of September following, when the city was captured by assault. Cornaro's despatches, so far as this work is concerned, commenced on the 9th of June, and continued until the 22nd of September. He generally wrote two letters weekly, both on the same day, the second letter carrying on the narrative up to the very last moment the messenger could wait for it.

The Pasha in command of Buda, to whose courage and skill Cornaro bears frequent witness, was emboldened to continue his resistance by the knowledge that his countrymen were making great efforts to relieve the place and raise the siege. On one occasion the Turks did manage to break through the besiegers and throw reinforcements into the place, but the number was too small to be of any material aid. Ultimately the garrison had the mortification of beholding the main body of a relieving army, led by the Grand Vizier in person, repulsed and driven off. Reading between the lines, it appears not improbable that the motives which impelled the commander of the Turkish forces to retreat were not altogether honourable; at any rate, the withdrawal of his forces convinced his countrymen in Buda that their fate was decided. Prompted by despair, they made an heroic defence, but were overpowered by numbers; and in the final assault hundreds, led by the brave Pasha, died sword in hand. An immense booty was found in the conquered city, not the least notable portion of it being the remains of the famous library founded by Matthias Corvinus.

The value of this translation of Cornaro's manuscript is greatly enhanced by a mass of illustrative notes, historical and biographical, an elucidatory preface and introduction, and copious indices. The volume is still further enriched by a great number of maps, plans, and portraits, chiefly from sources contemporary with the narrative, and many from the originals in the valuable collection of Prince Michael Eszterházy. Among the portraits, as of general interest, may be especially mentioned those of Christina of Sweden, Charles of Lorraine, Sobieski

of Poland, and Bussy-Rabutin. The editor's labours must have been great; he appears to have left no stone unturned to illustrate and elucidate Cornaro's communications. His preface furnishes such particulars as could be gleaned of Cornaro, of the Doge Marcantonio Giustiniani, and of Grimani, together with a very precise account of the MSS. which deal with the story of the siege. This is followed by an historical introduction, explaining the position of Hungary towards the rest of Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and an account of the country's partial conquest and occupation by the Turks up to the period treated of by the despatches. The deplorable condition of Hungary in 1685 is thus forcibly shown by a contemporary writer cited by Bishop Bubics in his introduction:—

"This unfortunate country was heavily oppressed by the burden of war. Her cities were burnt, villages destroyed, and fields wasted. Devastated Hungary was not able to support its own inhabitants, and much less the multitude of foreign regiments which were quartered in it during the winter. There were not enough provisions to provide food for the country people and the soldiery, and a terrible famine ensued. To such straits was the country reduced that, as the Imperial Archives show, three thousand persons perished of hunger; bread could not be purchased even at nine shillings a loaf; the officers had to content themselves with horse-flesh, and the soldiers, like beasts of prey, seized any kind of food obtainable; indeed, Col. Detuin declares some musketeers devoured the corpse of a dragoon, and a soldier's wife was known to eat the arm of her own child. Officers scarcely dared show themselves to their own troops, and General Steinau asserted that, unless bread were speedily forthcoming, he should not be able to venture into the presence of his starving men for dread of what their hunger might prompt them to do."

Cornaro's style is dry and official. He has few incidents of prowess to relate, and does not relieve his reports with such anecdotes of personal danger and daring as most letterwriters enliven their story with. The account of the final assault and capture of the city is singularly devoid of colour; nevertheless it appears to be a faithful record of fact.

English Poems. By Richard Le Gallienne. (Mathews & Lane.)

MR. RICHARD LE GALLIENNE'S prelude, 'To the Reader,' provokes consideration whether the Englishness of his 'English Poems' is so unique a quality in a present-day writer as he tells the reader. Except for the first three lines, which, whether true or not, are ugly, the prelude is, as verse, decidedly pleasant. It runs thus:—

Art was a palace once, things great and fair,
And strong and holy, found a temple there
Now 'tis a Lazar-house of leperous men.
O shall we hear an English song again!
Still English larks mount in the merry morn,
An English May still brings an English thorn,
Still English daisies up and down the grass,
Still English love for English lad and lass—
Yet youngsters blush to sing an English song!

Thou nightingale that for six hundred years
Sang to the world—O art thou hush'd at last!
For, not of thee this new voice in our ears,
Music of France that once was of the spheres;
And not of thee these strange green flowers that
spring
From daisy roots and seem to bear a sting.

Thou Helicon of numbers "undefiled,"
Forgive that 'neath the shadow of thy name,
England, I bring a song of little fame;
Not as one worthy but as loving thee,
Not as a singer, only as a child.

Pleasant and pretty, as verse; but can the statements about contemporary poets be accepted? We may set aside the question of the "lazar-house of leprous men"—the violence of the statement is its own refutation—but what about the disappearance of English song? Is not Mr. Le Gallienne's assumption of the office of chief-mourner rather amusingly unnecessary? Since when has the "Music of France" so entirely denaturalized English poetry? Is it a fact known to critics that the writers of the numerous new volumes of verse all (except Mr. Le Gallienne) aim at imitating French models? Have publishers recognized that the supply of the old native article has ceased, and that "an English song" will not be forthcoming for love or money? It is difficult to see how Mr. Le Gallienne can have persuaded himself, and can expect to persuade his readers, that there is any such general gallicizing of our contemporary poetry as he declares. Against the name of every known writer whose verse shows the influences referred to in 'To the Reader' can be counted a dozen certainly not less familiar names of writers who are absolutely untouched by them—more remote from them than Mr. Le Gallienne himself. Nor can it be admitted that whatever poet shows any trace of French influences must necessarily have changed away his birthright of song: a man might be as deeply tinged by the French literature of our day as Chaucer was by the French literature of his day and yet be able to do a good deal of singing in the capacity of a countryman of English larks, English daisies, English thorns, and English lovers.

Mr. Le Gallienne has, no doubt, in his mind's eye some writer, or writers, in whose case the birthright *has* been bartered away. But such exceptional instances prove nothing beyond their own exceptional existences. On the other hand, it seems strange that the very different evidence as to the present condition of English poetry to be found in the works of all our foremost poets and much the greater number of our minor poets has not impressed Mr. Le Gallienne sufficiently to prevent his indiscriminate sentence of outlawry. Let him, as a rough-and-ready test, take the names of the writers who are being discussed as, in their various ways, likely for the laureateship—a list of a score or so—and try how many he could possibly manage to make out gallicized in their poetry. The suggested candidates are, in their kinds and degrees, representatives of English verse-literature as it exists to-day; they are, in their kinds and degrees, in the van of it: from them, then, a fair conclusion may be drawn as to the proportion of fact in Mr. Le Gallienne's arraignment of his fellow purveyors of song. By way of a supply to meet a scarcity, his 'English Poems' are clearly superfluous.

But, taking the book on its own merits, it cannot be called superfluous—albeit that of making many books of verse there is no end—for nothing is superfluous which has beauty in it, and there is a good deal of beauty in this collection of poems. And

Mr. Le Gallienne seems to have outgrown certain pretentiousnesses, ungainliness, and occasional incompetencies, which once looked rather alarming for his career as a poet. Freed from these burrs and brambles—none the less hindering because mostly of his own intentional growing—his real poetic instinct has fair play. And in 'English Poems' rhyme, rhythm, and diction are worthy of a writer of ability and high ambition.

The first of the 'English Poems' is an Italian story—"Paolo and Francesca." The pair are, of course, Dante's immortal lovers: and, it must needs be said, they had better have been left to Dante. The expansion of their story into twenty-nine Spenserian (or semi-Spenserian) stanzas is a mistake in art; and the comparison it invites with the pathetic terseness of Dante's perfect narrative is fatal. "Love Platonic" is inaccurately named. The gist of the series is that a man loves, anything but platonically, a married woman who gives him her whole heart, but that they are honourable: there shall be nothing in their companionship that all their social world may not see, no sign of their love shall ever pass between them. It is not, by any means, that they

in some high dream despise

The common lover's common Paradise;
but they recognize her "cruel troth," and
their bond is that

this love of ours

Lives not, nor yet may live,
By the dear food that lips and hands can give.

The morality of this theme is, it must be owned, imperfect: a life of wedlock of the heart between a secret lover and another man's wife has, however decorously carried on, something of an ignoble flavour of bigamy about it. But the poems of "Love Platonic," taken severally, have little touch of this unwholesomeness: they might, almost every one of them, belong to any old-fashioned plain-sailing tragedy of true lovers parted. One good sample is this:—

ONCE.

Once we met, and then there came,
Like a Pentecostal flame,

A word;

All I said not,

Only thought,

She heard!

All I never say but sing,

Worshipping;

Wrapt in the hidden tongue

Of an ambiguous song.

How we met what need to say?

When or where,

Years ago or yesterday,

Here or there.

All the song is—once we met,

She and I;

Once, but never to forget,

Till we die.

All the song is that we meet

Never now—

"Hast thou yet forgotten, sweet?"

"Love, hast thou?"

'Love Afar' starts with two tender verses which have something in them that, although not imitating, reminds of Tennyson's inimitable "Oh that 'twere possible" lyric:—

Love, art thou lonely to-day?
Lost love that I never see,
Love that, come noon or come night,
Comes never to me;
Love that I used to meet
In the hidden past, in the land
Of forbidden sweet.

Love I do you never miss
The old light in the days?
Does a hand
Come and touch thee at whiles
Like the wand of old smiles,
Like the breath of old bliss?
Or hast thou forgot,
And is all as if not?

The series "Cor Cordium," dedicated to "my wife Mildred," is not in all its contents at Mr. Le Gallienne's highest level of poetry, but, like the miscellaneous poems which follow, these lyrical pieces have that in them which suggests better to come. In the section "Of Poets and Poetry" there is a thing, 'The Décadent to his Soul,' which, however superiorly intended, is more offensive than anything the supposed "décadent" could possibly have perpetrated. If the Spartans used their Helots for specimens of drunkenness to disgust their youngsters with the vice, at least they did not put themselves to the like abasement for bug-a-boos purposes. Mr. Le Gallienne should, from self-respect and respect to his readers, have spared himself and them the nauseous corrective.

But indeed Mr. Le Gallienne needs, for the position he has taken up, a little more discreetness in his own personality as a poet. "Music of France" or whatever else, he has pipings which are scarcely tuned to May-and-daisy-ness and harmless English lad-and-lass love. He will have to be careful, or somebody will be saying something about leprosy.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

- The Heir-Presumptive and the Heir-Apparent.* By Mrs. Oliphant. 3 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)
Wolfenberg. By William Black. 3 vols. (Sampson Low & Co.)
Mona Maclean, Medical Student. By Graham Travers. 3 vols. (Blackwood & Sons.)
Alston Crucis. By Helen Shipton. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)
The Story of a Child. By Margaret Deland. (Longmans & Co.)
The Guinea Stamp. By Annie S. Swan. (Oxford, Anderson & Ferrier.)
A Soldier's Children. By John Strange Winter. (Chatto & Windus.)
Leona. By Mrs. Molesworth. (Cassell & Co.)
Down in the Flats. By Cleveden Kenn. (Fisher Unwin.)
Elsie Ellerton: a Novelette of Anglo-Indian Life. By May Edwood. (Thacker & Co.)
Nigel Bartrum's Ideal. By Florence Wilford. (Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.)
Infelix: a Society Story. By Lady Duntze. (Ward & Downey.)
A Daughter of the South, and Shorter Stories. By Mrs. Burton Harrison. (Cassell & Co.)
Mon Chevalier. Par Gabriel Franay. (Paris, Armand Colin & Co.)
Contes d'après-midi. Par J. Ricard. (Paris, Calmann Lévy.)

Mrs. OLIPHANT has on the present occasion written a preface, a rather touching one. The lady to whom our generation has been indebted as largely as to any writer of fiction thinks it necessary to deprecate the charge of hasty production. As she rather pathetically says, it has been her fate "to be credited chiefly with the equivocal virtue of industry, a quality so excellent in morals, so little satisfactory in art." She attributes

the appearance of undue rapidity in publication to the exigencies of the serial method, and begs it to be understood that she is not guilty of the vice of undue hurry in composition. Let us hasten to assure her that her productiveness has seldom, if ever, made her seem careless, and that her latest work shows no symptom of failing power. She retains the fluency and grace of her style, her faculty of presenting the romance of domestic life, her womanly insight into the character of women. We would not say that her present story equals in interest some of her best previous works; but we think the character of Aunt Agnes—the loving but ungraceful spinster, lavishing all her wealth of affection on a sister whose clouded mind makes her incapable of appreciation, and on the sickly nephew who turns naturally from her to the mother whose affection has been long estranged from him—is one of marvellous originality and truth. She seems to us a heroine whose presentation would ennoble a far more ordinary book. For sad and meagre as is the story of the house of Frogmore for the most part, it is relieved from commonplace by the portrayal of most varied types of character. As the bad genius of the piece, Mrs. Parke, the wife of the heir presumptive, underbred and scheming, yet feeling that "the stars in their courses" must fight for a woman promoting the interest of her children, is a lifelike picture of self-deceit by degrees deadening the conscience till it is brought face to face with awful crime. When poor "Mar," whose frail life stands between her and the attainment of all her social hopes, seems to be likely to fulfil his destiny by dying young of typhus, she writes such pathetic letters to all her neighbours that she brings tears to her own eyes. Yet his delicacy is the result of her own systematic treatment, a system of over-care "lest anything should happen to him under her roof," and induced by no wish for his own physical welfare; and when, against her fondest expectations, he rallies from the fever, she is only prevented by an almost miraculous interference from bringing herself within a measurable and perilous distance of the gallows. The madness and recovery of her unhappy friend, Mar's mother, is a physiological problem beyond our power to estimate; but Mary's own gentle character is quite in accordance with the author's sympathetic gift of making womanly excellence alluring. Nor are the male personages wanting in distinction. The high-bred old man of the world, whose marriage turns out so tragically; the hearty, generous "Duke," whose good feeling at the coming-of-age dinner upsets his mother's schemes; the slow-witted but honest John Parke, ill mated with so dangerous a consort as Letitia, all play their parts in promoting the action of the tale.

Mr. Black's literary children are a fine and distinguished family, but there is the racial strain running through them. "Mur 'eil e Bran, e's a bhrathair." In the present tale there may be little of the echoes of Ardnamurchan, the allusions to Greenock are few and far between; but still Mr. Black's heart is Highland, and if he must deal with a gracious stranger from America, he effects in her a conversion which makes her *Scotia-*

Scotiorem. We note this without a shade of complaint: Peggy, Lady Cameron, is adorable; and if we miss the spindrift, and the Atlantic gales, and the grey weather, Mr. Black is a most pleasant pilot in summer seas. Indeed, we are not sure that in the way of poetical description he has done anything finer than several of the passages devoted to the beauties of Sicilian and Crimean coasts. But turning to the story of his voyagers, his new Argonauts in a yacht, it is not quite possible to admire it unreservedly. Wolfenberg is decidedly human; and his very virtue, coming in too late, makes his story tragic. It was clearly impossible for him, knowing Amélie Dumaresque, who touched the artistic as well as natural man so deeply, not to fall in love with her; but he was quite old enough to know the symptoms, and unless he purposed to divorce his wife (a process very easy in America) he was bound in honour to quit the heroine's society. A worse man would have done better in the long run for all concerned; a better man would never have got into the difficulty; but in spite of the very humanity of his mediocre course, we feel that any amount of self-denial and of integrity in trifles, of which he shows plenty, does not atone for a want of common sense which is inconsistent with heroism. We need hardly add that life on board ship mainly consists of dialogue, which, in Mr. Black's hands, is pointed and pleasant; that an idyl between two young lovers is most natural; and that much fun is extracted from Sappho, an elderly poetess, some of whose lines make us think Mr. Black could easily write serious verse, and an elderly and buoyant major, who surreptitiously drowns her dog.

We do not remember to have seen or heard of any previous novels from the pen of Graham Travers, and, assuming 'Mona Maclean' to be a maiden effort, he (or she?) deserves a cordial welcome for what, in despite of obvious blemishes, is a clever and interesting story. 'Mona Maclean' is eminently a novel with a purpose, and suffers from the drawbacks inherent in works of fiction of the proselytizing stamp. The author is a little too anxious to advertise his familiarity with the pharmacopeia and the dissecting-room, with the result that the dialogue is in places terribly shoppy. And, furthermore, the conversation is in general maintained at too high a pressure to be natural. The constant parade of culture, the German words and scraps of poetry with which the hero and heroine interlard their remarks, savour of something perilously allied to priggishness. And the reader will never cease wondering how this Admirable Crichton of a heroine managed to get ploughed in her exams. For the rest, the author handles a delicate subject neither as a prude nor yet as a "naturalist"; the pictures of Scotch middle-class life and the whole episode of Mona's self-imposed penance in acting as shop-assistant to a poor relation in Scotland are full of lifelike touches and not without humour, and the characters of Mona and her various girl friends are drawn with a good deal of subtlety and sense of contrast. The Anglo-Indian uncle is well sketched, but the hero is essentially a feminine creation, with his beautiful voice, his unexpected skill in oarsmanship, and his ecstasical method

of addressing his lady love. Still, the book shows decided promise, and is in parts exceedingly enjoyable. The meeting between the old Scotchwoman and her erring daughter has such genuine pathos that further work from the same pen will be awaited with interest.

'Alston Crucis' is concerned with an English landed proprietor, whose veins run gipsy blood, and who keeps a Romany beldame—his grandmother—by his ancestral fireside. There are a good many complications of various sorts, for the story is one of motive and incident. Revenge is the young man's main purpose, also the clearing of his dead father's reputation. The revenge is of the modern kind, in which the avenger ends by heaping coals of fire on the head of the intended victim. The contending elements of birth and association in the young squire's nature are painstakingly set forth, and the plot and counterplot appear to have been carefully planned yet dully imagined. The book is not even well knit, and as a story it does not impress one much. Some studies of character and one or two situations are more or less well conceived; but they fail to produce anything like suspense or excitement. A general sense of flatness pervades the volumes, and considerable tameness involves the "Roms" as well as other people. On the whole, it is all rather poorer reading than it should be, though one might easily have worse.

Mrs. Deland's 'John Ward' was a decidedly remarkable book. She has given it some successors, but, so far, no serious rival in popular estimation. 'The Story of a Child' is a highly finished study of a morbidly impressionable and fanciful little girl—a good and nice little girl, but not a particularly whole-one. Delicately-strung and sensitive children of this kind are, as everybody knows, amongst the commonest products of our civilization; it is extremely difficult to bring them up in the way they should go without trampling perpetually upon their susceptibilities. But then it is probably rather salutary for them than otherwise that their little susceptibilities should not be nursed in a hothouse of delicate observance and consideration, but braced by a certain amount of healthy disregard. On the whole, this appears to be Mrs. Deland's view; for though Ellen Dale was not understood by the grandmother who took the orphan to her home in the remote Pennsylvanian village, the writer has some sympathy to bestow upon the elder as well as upon the younger heroine. The pictures of old Chester and its inhabitants, "a hundred years behind the times," are charming. Mrs. Deland has a felicitous manner of touching such rural scenes and simple characters, and conveying the subtle note of Puritan austerity which gives them a flavour so entirely their own. An elderly romance is played out in the background with much grace and charm. The child's inner life and fanciful sufferings are realistic—probably many of us can remember something like them—but they are not, after all, interesting. On the other hand, there are sayings in the book which arrest the attention at once, such as Mrs. Dale's comment, for instance, upon Jane Temple's single life, "Yes, but it is better to be lonely than to wish to be alone"; and the description of

the lost child's wanderings through the country at night is admirable. It is a pity Mrs. Deland does not often choose subjects with some grit in them, she can write so well about most situations in life; the difficulty is, of course, to find the situation. In 'John Ward, Preacher,' she did find it.

We do not expect figs of thistles, nor, as a rule, upright, refined, and self-respecting men like Walter Hepburn to emerge from a drunken family of the artisan class in a back street in Glasgow. Yet such things are possible; and if the possibility be admitted in 'The Guinea Stamp,' there seems no objection to Gladys sacrificing her "position" to her love. But she is so refined and lovable a creature that Walter should have proved his merit more distinctly. He is a sturdy, self-sufficient Scot, honestly attached to Gladys, who stirs in his nature a genuine admiration which is his best trait; but apart from this feeling, and the humility which it works in him to the extent of making him even repellent of her innocent advances, he has nothing to indicate anything but the hardest self-concentration. He is honest and sober, and gives his ill-doing parents much good advice; but that is about the extent of his "altruism," and he takes no trouble to influence his wilder sister Liz. Lizzie Hepburn is an "ower true" portrait. Something there is in her of Effie Deans, given the utter difference of the home surroundings; like her brother, she can be a passionate lover, and is brought to misery and death by what is really the highest part of her nature. Old Abel Graham, the miser, and George Fordyce, Lizzie's betrayer and Gladys's betrothed, are good sketches, though scarcely more. It is in the female parts—Gladys and Lizzie, Teen and Mrs. Peck—that the author has shown most power in this eminently readable story of a side of Scottish life not generally illustrated in fiction.

Whatever we may think of the merits and demerits of the well-known writer who calls herself John Strange Winter, there can be no doubt that she understands children and their ways. 'A Soldier's Children' has not much plot; it is only the story of three little mortals at work and at play; but it is frank in style and is likely to be popular.

Mrs. Molesworth's 'Leona' is an unsatisfactory kind of book. It is a chronicle of the loves and misunderstandings of a group of commonplace folk, and it is sadly lacking in the charm which attaches to the writer's stories for children. There is an unreality about the beautiful Leona and her adorers; their sayings and doings seem to be without motive. Altogether the book is unattractive and tedious.

'Down in the Flats' is a novel with a purpose; the purpose is altogether excellent, but the book as a work of art can scarcely be looked upon as a great success. The villain of the piece is the owner of some low-lying meadows, dismal swamps where he builds "housen for Christians where God Almighty means nowt to thrive but cattle and grass and cabbage"; hence come misery and crime and all evil. Many people, good and bad, dwell in and about the dreary flats; some are real people, some puppets of the pen; but there is certainly force in the conception of the deadly place in which

they dwell. The book is appropriately dedicated to three "champions of sanitary Christianity."

'Elsie Ellerton' is also a novel with a purpose, and its purpose, too, is reasonable, but it is after all only incidental. The author in a brief preface protests against the tendency of writers on Anglo-Indian social life "to dwell chiefly on its exceptional and less savoury aspects." As a matter of fact, at the hill stations, where, with few exceptions, every one is enjoying a holiday, there is no greater tendency to immorality than there is at other places where pleasure is the chief object and business is put on one side for the moment. Moreover, the conditions of publicity under which all Anglo-Indians live produce two results. In the first place, there is a check on immorality; in the second place, intrigues which would remain a secret in England become in India public property. This novel is amusing, pure in tone, and distinguished by much local colouring. The heroine is a pleasant girl, but her friend is disfigured by sundry vulgarisms. Several of the other characters are well drawn, though there is no originality in creation of types. We would also point out to the author that "What can it be?" and "Who can it be?" are correct English expressions, while "Whatever can it be?" or "Whoever can it be?" is not.

"Nigel Bartrum's ideal"

"a quiet, gentle little soul who should be entirely womanly, and yet intelligent enough to sympathize with his intellectual tastes; and it was *de rigueur* that this little person, when found, should be *not* fast, *not* blue, *not* worldly, *not* methodistical, *not* a beauty, *yet not* ugly, *not* eccentric, *but not* wholly commonplace!" Nigel, a superior young man with an earnest mind, meets with a gentle creature whom he takes for his ideal and marries. But the bride is in reality quite a different person from "Nigel Bartrum's ideal," and the story of his rude awakening makes up an unattractive kind of book.

The familiar story of a beautiful woman married at seventeen to an unintellectual country gentleman and brought into contact five years later with a modern Lovelace is told in a highly sentimental, but unconvincing manner by Lady Duntze. After a great deal of aimless "spooning," a most clumsily contrived catastrophe brings to a close a tale which is marked neither by distinction of style, variety of incident, nor by acuteness of analysis.

Mrs. Burton Harrison's sheaf of short American stories are of unequal merit, and claim little attention on the score of incident, plot, or character analysis. One of them, 'Mr. Clendenning Piper,' is absolutely without point; and in no case is any skill displayed in the contrivance of a *dénouement*. Their texture is of the slenderest, and they are only redeemed from insignificance by the author's graceful talent for description and her sympathy with her sex, a quality not always observable in American female novelists.

On the cover of 'Mon Chevalier' the publishers have placed the words "pour les jeunes femmes." The novel is harmless and well written, but so dull that we fear that some of the young married ladies for whom it is intended will be tempted to send for the more exciting, but less proper novels

which are fully described in the first two "page-advertisements" at the end of 'Mon Chevalier.'

After publishing some novels of promise M. Ricard has become a writer of short stories in the style made popular in Paris by M. Catulle Mendès. We are sorry, because we had looked to M. Ricard to produce some day or other a great novel, but we are not surprised, because M. Ricard has a light touch and there is no literary work in such constant demand in Paris as the equivocal tale to fill two and a half columns of a daily paper. Many of M. Ricard's stories are excellent of their kind.

BOOKS OF TRAVEL.

In Savage Isles and Settled Lands: Malaysia, Australasia, and Polynesia, 1888-1891. By B. F. S. Baden-Powell. With numerous Illustrations from Sketches by the Author. (Bentley & Son.)—With an occasional bright exception, few departments of literature produce anything more uniformly monotonous and valueless than the experiences of the modern circumnavigator. Mr. Baden-Powell differs from his competitors in, at all events, one respect. His journey occupied the respectable period of three years instead of (say) as many months, not to mention a prolonged residence in Queensland. We might, then, fairly expect his utterances to contain at least twelve times the usual amount of solidity and reflection. They do not fulfil this expectation; perhaps, however, we should be grateful that they are not twelve times the normal length. We do not say that he is dull. He does his sightseeing conscientiously, and describes clearly such industries as gold crushing, meat freezing, cane crushing, and so on. A certain straightforwardness and cheeriness of temperament shine through and enliven his style, as well as the keen sympathy for his own discomforts, which we all feel, but which a less honest writer often keeps to himself. The most curious thing about the book is the supreme general ignorance with which he credits his readers. We are none of us so well informed as we might be; but surely the wingless birds of New Zealand, the *bêche de mer*, or sea slug, and its destination in China, the chewing of "betel nut" and lime, the production of quinine from the "cinchona" plant, are not exactly among the arcs of knowledge. It is even a matter of common fame that the railway from Alexandria to Cairo "passes through the prolific delta of the Nile," which is fertilized "by the alluvial deposits brought from afar by the great river"; on the other hand, no doubt it is necessary to explain "to those who do not know the ins and outs of the Pacific" that "the Sandwich Islands consist of a group situated in the Northern Pacific about 21° latitude." Mr. Baden-Powell does not, before his arrival in Java, seem to have heard of Sir Stamford Raffles and his despatches, the neglect of which led to the restoration of that island to the Dutch. But though disappointing where, as in Australia, we might have hoped for something better, our author gives us occasional interesting glimpses into more unfamiliar places, like Sarawak; and in New Guinea he had the good fortune to join an inland expedition under Sir William Macgregor, where he tells his story well enough. He has some shrewd remarks, too, on his American experiences, and he is quite entitled to his opinion that the Capitol at Washington is the finest building he ever saw, "always excepting Windsor Castle."

A BRIGHTER little book than Miss Margaret Fletcher's *Sketches of Life and Character in Hungary* (Sonnenschein & Co.) we have not met with for some time. Its chief charm is due to unconventionality of style and the absence of all the usual guide-book appendages. Miss

Fletcher appears to have reached Hungary without having acquired any preparatory information about its people or their history, and in consequence met with surprises, mostly pleasant, everywhere. Her sex and her English nationality secured her a welcome wherever she went; every one received her with characteristic hospitality, and everything was seen through rose-coloured glasses. A quick eye to appreciate and a lively pen to portray the various little incidents of her journey and the idiosyncrasies of the folks she met with render her book a lively companion for an hour or so; but for furnishing any special knowledge of the places she visited, or the people dwelling therein, it can scarcely be trusted. Should Miss Fletcher execute her project of another trip to Hungary, she may be enabled to obtain a more intimate knowledge of the inner life of the people than this rapid journey allowed; but before revisiting the country the acquisition of a better knowledge of its language than her present volume displays is advisable.

Arthur Young's Tour in Ireland, 1776-1779. Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by Arthur Wollaston Hutton. 2 vols. "Bohn's Standard Library." (Bell & Sons.)—Although it is impossible to find a work on Ireland which is not to some degree indebted to 'Young's Tour,' the unabridged work has never till now been reprinted since the year of its publication, 1780, and the second part of the 'Tour,' containing the statistics and much other important matter, was even then printed in small type. Few works so well known can have been so little read, for even the abridged republications are few in number, and we learn from the excellent bibliography supplied by Mr. P. J. Anderson that it has only been translated into two languages—French and German. This is not surprising, for 'Young's Tour,' though most valuable as a book of reference, is the reverse of easy reading, and the new edition, though important to students of the historic aspect of the Irish land question, will be of little interest to the general reading public.

The house of Calmann Lévy, of Paris, publishes *Voyage en Crimée* by "Louis de Soudak," a little book of travel only remarkable for an attempt to prove that Madame de Lamotte, of diamond necklace infamy, who "died in London, 1791," may have lived in the Crimea till 1840. She is remembered in the Crimea, it seems, as "well-preserved," which is lucky, as she was born in 1756.

M. RENÉ BAZIN's volume on Sicily, published by the house of Calmann Lévy, is worthy of the best of his former works. A prettier book of travel has not often reached us. Nothing is wanting: observation, playfulness, lightness of touch in the descriptions, style. It is true that M. Bazin would seem not to know either the south of his own France or "the East." He probably has not travelled much outside of Italy, and if he had he would, perhaps, hardly write with so much freshness. He describes the public writers of Messina, and thinks that their existence is a blot on Italian progress, but seems unaware that public writers have still their boxes in the streets of many towns of France, in which they take orders for love-letters, letters of congratulation, and missives of all kinds. M. Bazin draws for us the Duc d'Aumale's Sicilian watchmen raised on square platforms above the crops, but fails to remind his reader that from Northern Africa to China the crops are watched, and have been from the earliest dawn of husbandry, in precisely the same way. Our author tells us that Friday is unlucky in Sicily, because tradition tells that Judas was born upon that day. But in France itself there is far less travel upon Friday than on any other of the seven, and it is, of course, the tradition of the Crucifixion that in folk-lore curses this one day a week.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

A STORY by Jules Verne is always welcome, and *Mistress Branican* (Sampson Low & Co.), though scarcely worthy to be classed with 'A Journey to the Centre of the Earth' and the other early productions of the French magician, is quite as attractive as the thousand and one books with which he has favoured us of late years. The plot is no way remarkable; a perilous journey naturally occupies a prominent place, and gives rise to many thrilling incidents. In the end the villain is unmasked and virtue triumphant. Altogether, 'Mistress Branican' is to be recommended to the many admirers of M. Jules Verne.

We cannot say so much for *A Woman without a Head*, by the late Mrs. Mackarness (Hutchinson & Co.), a tiresome and rambling story with a moral. One of the many heroines is afflicted with a bad memory; she forgets to do what she ought to do, and so brings down death and destruction on all around her. The style is scarcely to be commended. Here is the story of the mother of the heedless heroine:—

"Mrs. Western had married at eighteen a young officer whom she had loved with the unquestioning idolatry of first love. The parents made no objection—they had none to make to the soldierly scholar and gentleman who sought their child's hand—but there was one they would have so much preferred. George Western was the son of their oldest friend, a commercial man of large means, which the boy would, as only son, inherit; but how could he find favour in the sight of the girl with the soft brown eyes, looking out on life so joyfully, seeking to find some one whose eyes would see what she saw, something in the primrose growing by the bank beyond a little primrose, something in the glorious glitter of the summer sky, save little stars only, what some one saw who would not in monotonous tone talk to her of the rise and fall of funds, or laugh at silly, pointless jests?"

There are pages more in this vein. There is a good deal of love-making, of a kind, but there is not much to edify or delight the girl readers for whom the book is intended.

Fower Folk, by Edith Carrington (Griffith & Farran), is a collection of graceful and fanciful stories, good for both young and old.

"First there was the 'Blue Fairy Book'; then, children, you asked for more, and we made up the 'Red Fairy Book'; and, when you wanted more still, the 'Green Fairy Book' was put together." So says Mr. Andrew Lang in his introduction to the third of the "Fairy Books of many colours." *The Green Fairy Book* (Longmans & Co.) is a charming collection, which bids fair to be as popular as its predecessors. The stories are borrowed from many countries; some of the most fascinating are from the French. They are admirably translated, and the book is a real boon to our little ones.—Messrs. Longman also issue a most attractive illustrated edition of *The Autobiography of a Slander*, the shortest, but to our mind by no means the least attractive, of Miss Edna Lyall's stories.

"There are not many people now," says Mr. Andrew Lang—"perhaps there are none—who can write really good fairy tales, because they do not believe enough in their own stories, and because they want to be wittier than it has pleased Heaven to make them." We entirely agree with Mr. Lang in his estimate of the modern fairy tale, and we have no delight in either *Soap-Bubble Stories* or Norley Chester's nineteenth century fairy tale, *Olga's Dream*, both issued by Messrs. Skeffington & Son. They have, of course, no harm in them, but they seem to us to be terribly dull.

Cossack and Czar, by David Ker (Chambers), is a tale of the times of Peter the Great and Mazepa and "Pultowa's day." General Scobell and his son go through many adventures, of which Walter's escape from the wolves by firing the dry grass of the steppe is one of the most exciting. From the little French girl they rescue from the Turks, our author assures

us, sprang the line of the redoubtably Skobeleff. The scenes of Cossack revelry we are to accept on the same authority as taken from the life. The story is told with plenty of literary power.—In *Through Storm and Stress*, by J. S. Fletcher, the remarkable adventures of Richard Fletcher of York—how in the year 1576 he ran away to sea with a comrade; how they were wrecked, and after hard peril attained a volcanic island, which presently became too hot to hold them and disappeared, being destroyed by an eruption; how they met a solitary on an island; and thereafter fell into the hands of corsairs from Alexandria; and there made the acquaintance of the renowned John Fox, mariner, of Woodbridge, in Suffolk, who was himself a slave on board the Turkish galleys and a prisoner in Alexandria for fourteen years—are related in a fashion which leaves nothing to be desired, and has much of the flavour of Hakluyt.

Finn and his Companions. By Standish O'Grady. (Fisher Unwin.)—Happy are the young people of the present day, for many and charming are the books prepared for them. The "Children's Library," in its linen cover of blue and white, is perhaps too dainty for little hands that are apt to be black and sticky, but the volumes are the prettier for their fragility, and the contents of those that we have seen are just what a children's library ought to be: interesting, romantic, and instructive. These stories of Finn will be dear to all little people who love heroism and adventure—that is to say, to all whose taste has not been depraved by the miserable, realistic stories of nursery life which were recently known as children's books—and all children will be better and wiser for having enjoyed these tales, steeped in "the great simple virtues of truth, courage, and generosity." Nevertheless the volume should have a place in a more permanent library than that of the nursery, for it is scholarly as well as entertaining, and forms a valuable addition to the translated store of Ossianic literature. Most of the stories appear for the first time in English dress, and are supposed to have been related to St. Patrick by Caelta, a cousin of Ossian and a doughty Fenian hero. Compared to the beautiful legends of Deardrē, of Grania and Diarmid, or of Cuculain, the tales are scrappy and anecdotic; but though they lack the dramatic interest and poetry of the better-known stories, they will be welcome to the fast increasing public who have learnt to love the Celtic contemporaries of the Knights of the Round Table.

A Ring of Rubies, by L. T. Meade (Innes & Co.), seems to fulfil the conditions necessary for a successful Christmas volume. At the beginning it shows us the heroine poor, but heroically determined somehow to get money enough to attend the Slade School of Art, while at the end she has attained to such a satisfactory condition of wealth that she need no longer think of Slade schools or omnibuses. Although the affair of the will seems rather improbable, even for a Christmas book, the device of the ring is ingenious, and the heroine's patience and solid worth are amply rewarded by the event. A due tinge of aristocratic flavour is imparted to the book by the Lady Ursula and her lover in the Guards, and the interest of current events is observed by the representation of the hero as a most distinguished African traveller.

Mr. Jephson's Stories told in an African Forest (Sampson Low & Co.) will be extremely popular with children, who must be weary of having books given them which, when opened, are found to contain nothing but stories they know by heart already, all having been taken from works which no child's library should be without. Here we have new stories in an entirely new and very interesting setting, it being no less than an account of the ways of life of a part of the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition while it rested and recruited its health in the

deserted village of Ibwiri, hard by a forest peopled by cannibals of two sizes—one natives of the usual height, who are described, in a somewhat Irish manner, as “quite naked and wearing no boots,” the other, Mr. Stanley’s formidable dwarfs the Aruwimi. In addition to these the encampment had to be on its guard against various wild beasts, puff adders, and venomous snakes with a trick of dropping down from trees upon passers-by. Mr. Jephson refrains from even one harrowing story of these noxious neighbours of his. We believe, indeed, that he was more afraid of the red ants than of any of them. His book is pleasant reading in more ways than one, for it shows the friendly relations which existed between the white men and the negroes, and this friendliness has, unhappily, on other occasions been called in question. When the work of fortifying and rendering their temporary home habitable was over for the day, the masters and their two hundred black men seem to have sat down by the camp fire, smoking, gossiping, and talking as merrily as children, the English freely responding to the nicknames given by the negroes, and the negroes willingly telling stories picked up in the Arab caravans with which they had travelled or the folk-stories current in Zanzibar.

It is very rarely that one meets with a modern fairy tale which is worth reading, but we must confess that *The Chronicles of Faeryland* (Griffith & Farran), by Fergus Hume, are decidedly attractive. There are many graceful illustrations to these charming and fantastic tales for old and young.

Gilbert's First Voyage, and other Stories. By M. C. Halifax, Thomas Miller, Frances H. Wood, and others. Illustrated. (Hogg.)—The collection of tales under the name of ‘Gilbert’s First Voyage’ is curiously old-fashioned, even to the woodcuts. In fact, we suspect it is a reprint. But it would not be a bad present for children of either sex. Gilbert is wrecked, and settles at Madeira for a time. ‘Halcyon Days’ records the improvement effected in some little girls by a good governess. ‘Brampton among the Roses’ deals with country sights and sounds, the habits of bees, ants, &c. The ‘Story of Wellington’ is told with simplicity, and contains a wholesome moral. ‘The Prophet and the Lost City’ describes Mr. Layard’s discoveries at Nimroud.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

To the well-ordered mind there are few more fascinating forms of wasting time than gossip about books or *bric-à-brac*, and even in the uninitiated the recital of triumphs achieved by the expert hunter after books or curios will raise a momentary enthusiasm. If you do not possess the *Pastissier François* or a piece of genuine Buhl made by the great man himself, the next best thing is to hear of the man who does, and of the shifts whereby he got them. Yet there are not so very many books which supply this want, and Mr. Ellwanger’s *The Story of my House* (Bell & Sons) may be welcomed among the number. In it he has built himself an imaginary house, which he has stored with all manner of choice Oriental rugs, with richly coloured china and blue delft, and with rare books lovingly bound in fitting covers. But he does not show himself to be one of those bigoted collectors who pay more heed to rarity than to worth; for in his rugs and china he thinks first of their intrinsic beauty, and in his books of the value of their contents. He also deals with the other aspects of his house: the situation of the rooms, the garden, the view from the window, and such like. It must, however, be confessed that the chapters dealing with outside nature, such as his garden, his flowers, and the weather, are the least successful; the subject, for one thing, is less attractive and the treatment is drier, so that one willingly hastens over a chapter about the “Signs in the Sky” to reach the “Magicians

of the Shelves.” His books are evidently his chief care, and about them we read with most pleasure. Let him speak for himself on this subject:—

“The size of the study, methinks, should be small rather than large; yet ample enough to harbour the cheering fire, the easy-chairs, the centre-table, the writing-desk, the well-filled book-cases, and the artistic glass cabinet or cabinets, for such precious volumes as ought to be kept under lock and key, and never lent, or even touched by sacrilegious hands. Let these gems be worthily set as becomes their quality and rarity, so that they may minister to the delight of the eye and the pleasure of the touch as they contribute to the delectation of the mind. ‘Sashes of gold for old saints, golden bindings for old writings,’ Nodier expresses it..... My glass cabinet is my casket, my jewel-case; and in the many-coloured morocco of the bindings that reflect the precious riches contained within them, I see all manner of jewels flash and glow. In these, and in some of the superb marblings employed in the finer French bindings—and here the exquisite beauty of the perfect half-morocco binding is apparent—I derive a satisfaction akin to that which I receive from the contemplation of any fine art object. The airy conceits and felicities of phrase of a favourite author become yet more entrancing when held by these coloured butterfly-wings and variegated plumes, dreamed out by the artist and stamped in permanent form by the skill of the binder.”

The language, it will be noticed, is somewhat “precious,” but not inappropriately so to the subject. Mr. Ellwanger is evidently a great admirer of Montaigne: he quotes him frequently, discusses passages in him, and models his style largely on him: all which is as it should be. The only objection is that too close an imitation of some of Montaigne’s more obvious mannerisms, such as his love of quotation, his irrelevance, and his delightful egotism, might suggest comparisons which are hardly fair to Mr. Ellwanger. In conclusion it may be added that the book is beautifully printed and got up.

The Child set in the Midst, by Modern Poets (Field & Tuer), is Mr. Wilfrid Meynell’s title for an anthology of “poems about children, not for them,” of which it is sufficient to say that, with some three or four exceptions, all the numbers that were worthy to be “gathered together for mature readers” are already included in Mr. Eric Robertson’s collection. Mr. Meynell has boldly trusted entirely to his private sentiment and judgment, and we cannot agree with the description of Mr. Francis Thompson as “a new personality in poetry, the last discovered of the Immortals.” Mr. Thompson has written a few—very few—fine lines, but his work is imitative, and shows a poor ear for rhythm and for metrical harmony, or else an originality which is pushed across the verge of eccentricity. We are sorry to miss Mr. T. E. Brown’s splendid little poem ‘The Christening,’ and his other poem ‘Bella Gorry’—perhaps too long for this volume—in which the instinct of maternity is enshrined in words that would have provoked homage from Wordsworth; and also a ballad in Mr. Kipling’s last volume. Some of the verses from Mr. Swinburne’s last volume of ‘Poems and Ballads’ deserved a place. But taken all round, this collection will serve for such as do not own Mr. Robertson’s.

Who Pays your Taxes? is the not very well chosen title of a volume of the American “Questions of the Day” series, published by Messrs. Putnam’s Sons. It consists of a collection of essays attacking the present system of taxation in the United States, but the writers are not quite in agreement as to remedy; and, although one of them is the well-known free-trader Mr. David Wells, Mr. Bolton Hall, the editor, prefixes a preface, in the name of the New York Tax Reform Association, in which he explains that that body does not completely adopt the views of some of the writers, as it leans neither towards protection nor free trade. This is a somewhat peculiar position to be permanently maintained. The essays, on the whole, lean towards

free trade, for they are distinctly anti-protectionist in their tone. They also lean towards simplicity of taxation, and they form such an exposure of the American system as to make one feel that things are bad indeed if they are as bad as described.

THE catalogues that have accumulated of late on our table are those of Mr. Baker (Theology), Messrs. Broadbent & Andrews, Mr. Daniell (Topography), Mr. Edwards (Catalogue of Australian Literature, another Theological, and another Military Books), Messrs. Ellis & Elvey (valuable), Mr. Everett (two catalogues), Messrs. Garratt & Co. (curious), Mr. Gray (Topography), Messrs. Hardy & Co., Mr. Hartley, Mr. F. H. Hutt (fair), Mr. Jackson (two catalogues), Messrs. Jarvis & Son (two good catalogues), Mr. Lauser (Portraits), Mr. May, Mr. Menken (two good catalogues), Mr. Nutt (Ancient Classics, good), Messrs. Skeffington & Son, Messrs. Sootheran (good), Mr. Spencer (good), Messrs. Suckling & Galloway, and Mr. & Mrs. Tregaskis (handsome catalogue in quarto). The booksellers outside London whose catalogues have reached us are Mr. Ball of Barton-on-Humber (two catalogues); Messrs. Meehan (two catalogues) and Mr. Pickering of Bath; Mr. Baker (curious collection of Early Railway Literature), Mr. Downing (three catalogues), Mr. Lowe, Mr. Thistlewood (three catalogues), and Mr. Wilson (two catalogues) of Birmingham; Messrs. Matthews & Brooke (Alpine Literature, two parts) of Bradford; Messrs. Fawn & Son (two fairly good catalogues) and Messrs. George’s Sons (three fairly good catalogues) of Bristol; Mr. Brown (good), Mr. Cameron (fairly good), and Mr. Johnston (good) of Edinburgh; Mr. Commin of Exeter; Mr. Teal of Halifax; Mr. Miles and Mr. Milligan of Leeds; Messrs. Young & Sons (two good catalogues) of Liverpool; Mr. Sutton of Manchester (fair); Mr. Thorne of Newcastle-on-Tyne; Messrs. Hiscock & Son of Richmond, Surrey (two catalogues); Mr. Iredale of Torquay; and Mr. Naunton of Great Yarmouth. Messrs. Conway & Co. of Birmingham have forwarded an interesting Catalogue of Autographs. Mr. Lissa of Berlin also sends a catalogue.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Cumming’s (J. E.) *Scripture Photographs*, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl. Hiller’s (H. C.) *Against Dogma and Free Will*, 8vo. 6/- cl. Lilly’s (W. S.) *The Great Enigma*, 8vo. 14/- cl. Pearce’s (M. G.) *The Gospel for the Day*, 16mo. 2/6 cl. Rowley’s (A. C.) *The Christ in the Two Testaments*, 2/ cl. Scriptures, Hebrew and Christian, arranged and edited by E. T. Bartlett and J. P. Peters, Vol. 3, 8vo. 9/- Sermon Year-Book, 1892, cr. 8vo. 6/- cl. Stokes’ (Rev. G. T.) *The Acts of the Apostles*, Vol. 2, 7/6 cl. Storr’s (R. S.) *Bernard of Clairvaux*, cr. 8vo. 9/- cl.

Law.

Broughton’s (H. M.) *Reminders for Conveyancers*, 8vo. 3/6 cl. Norman’s (A. W.) *Digest of the Death Duties, with Examples*, royal 8vo. 21/- cl. Salaman’s (J. S.) *The Arbitrator’s Manual*, 3/3 cl.

Fine Art.

Corroyer’s (E.) *Gothic Architecture*, edited by W. Armstrong, illustrated, cr. 8vo. 6/- cl. Hawthorne’s (N.) *The Scarlet Letter*, illustrated by T. O. C. Darley, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl. Maikey’s (General F. C.) *Sanchi and its Remains, with Forty Plates*, 4to. 50/- cl. Vanity Fair Album, 1892, folio, 42/- cl. Warner’s (C. D.) *In the Levant*, illustrated with Photogravures, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/- cl.

Poetry and the Drama.

Chapman’s (J. T.) *Meditative Poems*, cr. 8vo. 3/- cl. Field’s (M.) *Stephania, a Triloque in Three Acts*, 6/- net. Irving’s (Henry) *The Drama, Addresses, with Portraits of Mr. Irving and Mr. Whistler*, 18mo. 3/6 bds. Moulton’s (L. C.) *In the Garden of Dreams, Lyrics and Sonnets*, cr. 8vo. 6/- cl.

Philosophy.

Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated, with an Analysis and Critical Notes, by J. E. C. Weldon, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.

History and Biography.

Andrews’s (W.) *Bygone Leicestershire*, 8vo. 7/6 cl. Lecky’s (W. E. H.) *History of Ireland*, Vol. 5, cr. 8vo. 6/- cl. Moriarty’s (G. P.) *Dean Swift and his Writings*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl. Officer (An) of the Long Parliament and his Descendants, *Life and Times of Col. R. Townesend*, demy 8vo. 10/6 cl. Wilks (S.) and Bettany’s (G. T.) *A Biographical History of Guy’s Hospital*, 8vo. 15/- cl.

Geography and Travel.

Across France in a Caravan, by Author of 'A Day of my Life at Eton,' demy 8vo. 15/- cl.
 Bates's (H. W.) *The Naturalist on the River Amazon*, with Memoir of Author by E. Clodd, illus. med. 8vo. 18/- cl.
 Boddy's (A. A.) *With Russian Pilgrims*, Maps and Illustrations, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Carpenter's (E.) *From Adam's Peak to Elephants*, Sketches in Ceylon and India, illustrated, 8vo. 15/- cl.
 Dewar's (J. C.) *Voyage of the Nyanza*, with a Map and Illustrations, 8vo. 21/- cl.
 Scamper through the States, being an Illustrated Guide to the World's Fair, 1893, roy. 8vo. 2/- cl.

Philology.

Daudet's (A.) *Contes militaires*, ed. by T. W. Perowne, 2/6
 Kellner's (L.) *Historical Outlines of English Syntax*, 6/- cl.
 Macdonell's (A. A.) *A Sanskrit-English Dictionary*, 4to. 42/-
 New Pocket Dictionary of the English and Dano-Norwegian Languages, 32mo. 4/6 cl.
 New Pocket Dictionary of the English and Russian Languages, 32mo. 4/6 cl.
 Phillips's (A. N.) *Hindustani Idioms, Vocabulary, &c.*, 6/- cl.
 Quintillian's *Institutionis Oratoria Liber X*, a Revised Text, edited by W. Peterson, 12mo. 3/- cl.
 Tennyson's *The Marriage of Geraint, Geraint and Enid*, with Introduction and Notes by G. C. Macaulay, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
 Xenophon, translated by H. G. Dakyns, Vol. 2, cr. 8vo. 10/6
 Science.

Allen's (G.) *Science in Arcady*, cr. 8vo. 5/- cl.
 Grant's (R.) *Second Glasgow Catalogue of 2,166 Stars for the Epoch 1890*, 4to. 21/- cl.
 Hurst's (G. H.) *Printers' Colours, Oils, and Varnishes*, a Practical Manual, illustrated, large cr. 8vo. 12/- cl.
 Hutchinson's (Rev. H. N.) *Extinct Monsters*, illus. 12/- cl.
 Kinnison's (C. W.) *The Chemistry of Life and Health*, 2/6
 Proctor's (R. A.) *Old and New Astronomy*, completed by A. C. Ranyard, Plates and Woodcuts, 4to. 36/- cl.

General Literature.

Armies of To-day (The), illustrated, 16/- cl.
 Barr's (A. B.) *A Rose of a Hundred Leaves*, 12mo. 6/- cl.
 Best Reading, 4th Series, edited by L. E. Jones, cr. 8vo. 3 1/2
 Columb (Rear-Admiral), Maurice (Capt.), and Maude's (Capt.) *The Great War of 1890*, a Forecast, 12mo. 6/- cl.
 Cuthell's (E.) *Only a Guard-Room Dog*, cr. 8vo. 6/- cl.
 Dickens's (C.) *Sketches by Boz*, Reprint of the First Edition, Introduction by C. Dickens the Younger, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Douglas's (R.) *Chinese Stories*, illustrated, 8vo. 12/- cl.
 Godfrey's (B.) *Twixt Wood and Sea*, a Novel, 3 vols. 31/- cl.
 Grossman's (E.) *In Revolt*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Gully of Bluemansdyke, 12mo. 2/- cl.
 Gunsaullus's (F. W.) *Mark and Knight*, a Tale, cr. 8vo. 4/6
 Hume's (F.) *Aladdin in London*, in cr. 8vo. 6/- cl.
 Humours of Italy, selected and translated by A. Werner, illustrated, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Humours of Cynicus, roy. 16mo. 3/6 cl.
 Hunt's (Mrs. A. W.) *Mrs. Juliet*, 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 31/- cl.
 Lake's (N.) *Daily Dinners*, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Life and Labour of the People in London, edited by C. Booth, Vol. 1, 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Maude's (Mrs. W.) *The Child Countess*, 12mo. 4/- cl.
 Noble and Joyous History of King Arthur, by Sir T. Malory, &c., edited by E. Rhys, 2 vols. 12mo. 4/- brocade in case.
 Peep of Day (The), with Coloured Pictures, 4to. 2/6 cl.
 Raikes's (H. St. John) *Life in him Yet*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Sweet's (H.) *Manual of Current Shorthand, Orthographic and Phonetic*, 12mo. 4/- cl.
 Vandam's (A. D.) *Masterpieces of Crime*, cr. 8vo. 2/- bds.
 Watson's (S.) *The Berries of Silver Leaf*, cr. 8vo. 2/- cl.
 Waugh's (E.) *Besom Bed Stories*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Waverley Novels : Guy Mannering, Border Edition, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 12/- cl.
 Wilkins's (M. E.) *Jane Field*, a Novel, cr. 8vo. 6/- cl.
 Williams's (M.) *Round London, Down East and Up West*, 15/-
 Yonge's (C. M.) *That Stick*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.

*FOREIGN.**Theology.*

Grünberg (P.) : *Philipp J. Spener*, Vol. 1, 10m.
 Hase (K. v.) : *Gesammelte Werke*, Vol. 3, Section 2, Part 1, 6m.
 Kabisch (R.) : *Die Eschatologie d. Paulus*, 8m.
 Liber Samuelis, *Textum Masoreticum notis criticis confirmavit S. Baer*, 1m. 50.

Fine Art and Archeology.

Dessau (H.) : *Inscriptions Latinæ*, Vol. 1, 16m.
 Quellenhandschriften d. Kunsts geschichte d. Mittelalters u. der Neuzeit, New Series, Vol. 5, 3m.
 Kires et Grimaiges, *Album humoristique*, Dessins de J. L. Forain, 5fr. 50.

Music.

Contague (H.) : *Les Drames musicaux de R. Wagner*, 3fr. 50.
Philosophy.

Herbart's Sämtliche Werke, hrsg. v. K. Kehrbach, Vol. 7, 8m.

History and Biography.

Adeline (J.) : *Rouen au XVI. Siècle*, 70fr.
 Bardoux (A.) : *Les dernières Années de La Fayette*, 7fr. 50.
 Delarc (O.) : *Ystoile du Normant par Aymé*, 12fr.
 Gaulot (P.) : *Un Ami de la Reine*, 3fr. 50.
 Grandmaison (G. de) : *L'Ambassade française en Espagne pendant la Révolution*, 7fr. 50.
 Histoire littéraire de la France, Vol. 16, 21fr.
 Lefranc (A.) : *Histoire du Collège de France*, 7fr. 50.
 Philippson (M.) : *Histoire du Règne de Marie Stuart*, Vol. 3, 10fr.

Geography and Travel.

Decrais (J.) : *L'Angleterre contemporaine*, 3fr. 50.
 Lentheric (C.) : *Le Rhône*, 2 vols. 18fr.
Philology.

Glesswein (A.) : *Die Hauptprobleme der Sprachwissenschaft*, 5m.
 Paul (M.) : *Grundriss der germanischen Philologie*, Vol. 2, Part 1, 16m.

THE QUELÉTZÙ.

"Now the first bird that sang on earth was the Quelétzù."—*Mexican Mythology*.

UP in the air,

Like a spirit in prayer,
 With the wings of a dove, and the heart of a rose,
 And a bosom as white as the Zaráby snows,
 When the hurricane blows !

In the light of the day,

Like a soul on its way

To the gardens of God, it was loosed from the earth ;
 And the song that it sang was a pean of mirth
 For the raptures of birth,

The song that it sang

Like an echo out-rang

From the cloud to the copse, and the copse to the cloud ;
 And the hills and the valleys responded aloud,—
 And the rivers were proud.

If you think of the rush

Of the wind, and the flush

Of a morning in May when the sun is in view,
 You will know what is meant by the flight from the dew
 Of the first Quelétzù.

If you think of these things

You will dole on the wings

Of the wonderful bird in its upward career ;
 And the legends thereof will be sweeter to hear
 Than the songs of a seer.

You will know what is meant

By the pinioned ascent

Of an angel of grace when its mission is done,
 And the knowledge of this will be second to none
 Which the ages have spun.

For the lark in its nest

Is a minstrel at best,

And the music it makes is the mirth of a kiss
 That is flung to the skies in a frenzy of bliss
 On the Morning's abyss.

And the nightingale's note

Is a sob from its throat,

And the gurgle thereof is a rapture of pain ;
 For the roses are sad,—and the lilies complain,—
 When the silence is slain.

All the larks in the world

With their feathers unfurled,

And the nightingales, too, in their tender despair,—
 All the birds that we know have a sorrow to share
 With the natives of air.

But the first Quelétzù,

When it sprang to the blue,

Had the heart of a rose, and the wings of a dove ;
 And the song that it sang to the angels above
 Was the music of love.

ERIC MACKAY.

NOTES FROM OXFORD.

APART from the interest excited by Mr. Gladstone's Romanes Lecture and the inaugural lecture of the new Regius Professor of Modern History, the term has been uneventful. Of the Romanes Lecture it would be difficult to say more than has been said already : that the scene was one to be remembered, and that the lecture was, in dignity of thought and language, not unworthy to stand at the head of what we hope will be a long and illustrious list. Prof. Froude was, as every one hoped he would be, characteristic of himself. For his regular lectures he has chosen a subject, the Council of Trent, which he is especially well fitted to handle, and he has—what all professors have not—a good and sufficient audience.

The by-elections to Council aroused a certain amount of interest, but it cannot be said that they turned on any very definite issue, or that they indicated anything but the effect which the growing popularity of Oxford as a place of residence has produced upon the composition of the electoral body. The resident M.A.s who constitute Congregation are becoming every year a larger, a more miscellaneous, and a less educational body. There is not at present any question immediately before the

University on which any very clear division of opinion exists. The case for and against the establishment of an Honour School of English Language and Literature is, no doubt, arguable, and is keenly argued ; but even the opponents of the scheme appear to be aware that an English university cannot much longer refuse a place in its ordinary curriculum to the study of English.

A question of a more technical character, but of considerable importance, has been already raised by the growth of medical studies. Before very long the University will have to make up its mind as to the relation between the professional and the non-professional subjects of study in science, and care will have to be taken that the latter are not unduly depreciated or crowded out to make room for the former. To these two questions may be added a third, which, though as yet it has not been formally raised, must be faced by the University before very long. The number of women students residing in Oxford, attending university and college lectures, and entering for university examinations, is steadily increasing. At present the University draws no distinction between these resident students, whom in fact it teaches as well as examines, and the non-residents, whom it merely examines. It is felt, however, by many that there is a distinction, and that the distinction should be recognized, and that while the examinations may with some reason be left open to all, the University might grant some kind of official recognition to those women who comply with the requirements exacted from men as regards residence, teaching, and the times and order in which the examinations are taken. The proper solution of the question cannot be discussed here, and to some of us the question seems to be eminently one which Oxford and Cambridge should deal with in concert. But in any case it is one which our senators in council would do well to consider.

The scheme approved by the University last term for the erection of a large annexe to the University Galleries—a scheme which was originated by Mr. Fortnum's liberal offer of his own collections and of a considerable endowment—has now advanced so far that the contract with the builder has been signed, and building operations will be very shortly commenced.

The newly elected Craven Fellow, Mr. Myres, proposes, I believe, to devote himself mainly to a study of the archaeological problems connected with the Mycenaean and kindred finds in Egypt and elsewhere. In proof of the useful part which the Craven Fellowship has played since its foundation a few years ago, I may mention that Convocation has this week continued the grant made to a former Fellow, Mr. T. W. Allen, to enable him to complete his examination of Greek MSS. in foreign libraries, and that Mr. Hogarth is about to publish in the Royal Geographical Society's *Transactions* a paper on the Roman roads in Cappadocia, the result of his journey there two summers ago.

SCOTT ON COLE RIDGE.

IN the *Athenæum* for November 12th you were good enough to print a note of mine which was principally taken up with Scott's preference for Coleridge's 'Love' as first printed, with the title 'Introduction to the Tale of the Dark Ladie.' I pointed out that "he must have possessed a copy of the *Morning Post* for December 21st, 1799." Since then I have found that in his 'English Minstrels' : being a Selection of Fugitive Poetry from the Best English Authors,' the preparation of which was one of Scott's numerous enterprises in 1810, he printed Coleridge's poem verbatim from the *Morning Post*. A note states that the stanzas were first printed in a London newspaper, and republished in Wordsworth's 'Lyrical Ballads' with some alterations. In the 'English

Minstrelsy' Scott printed for the first time some of his own minor poems; and it is greatly to the credit of his taste that he included Wordsworth's 'Lines written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey,' which up to that time had attracted no public attention. The poem was almost, if not quite, the only one in the 1798 volume thus ignored. Most critics laughed at 'The Ancient Mariner'; some admired, some scorned, 'Goody Blake' and 'The Idiot Boy'; but for these noble lines of Wordsworth, whose merits were masked by no eccentricity of form, there had been unbroken silence.

J. D. C.

TALLEYRAND.

M. FLAMMERMONT, a professor of history at Lille, has put out a pamphlet on the authenticity of the Talleyrand 'Memoirs,' in which he proves that there was an original on which M. de Bacourt worked, and that in a previous work the latter had completely altered letters which affected the character of Talleyrand, omitting, for example, such choice morsels as "The Bishop of Autun is a scoundrel who would do anything for money," and substituting in some passages words of his own. It is therefore at least likely that M. de Bacourt altered Talleyrand's original memoirs and then destroyed them. The Due de Broglie's attempt to prove the historical value of the work published by him has fallen to the ground, and the 'Memoirs' of Talleyrand become of not more value than those of Fouché. The *Athenæum* all along pointed out that they were by far less interesting and far less truthful than the volumes of Talleyrand's letters published by M. Pallain.

SALE.

THE sale of portions of the libraries of Baron Heath and Mr. E. G. Wrigley took place at the rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Amongst the chief books sold were: Boccace, *Decameron*, traduit par Le Maçon, 5 vols., with plates by Gravelot and Eisen, 21*l.* 10*s.* Byron's Life, Letters, and Journals, 5 vols., extensively illustrated, 42*l.* Arabian Nights, translated by J. Payne, 13 vols., 8*l.* 15*s.* Curtis's Botanical Magazine, 112 vols. in 9*l.* 12*l.* Dickens's Works, édition de luxe, 16 vols., 20*l.* Ruskin's Modern Painters and Stones of Venice, new edition, 8 vols., 15*l.* 15*s.* Thackeray's Works, édition de luxe, 26 vols., 16*l.* 10*s.* Audsley's Keramic and Ornamental Arts of Japan, 6 vols., 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* Caricature Annual, 5 vols., 1*l.* 15*s.* Young's Night Thoughts, with Blake's illustrations, 6*l.* 5*s.* The three days' sale realized 1,269*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

THE HARSHIPS OF PUBLISHING.

MAY I be allowed through your valuable columns to say a word with regard to the curious condition of the English publisher of to-day? I do so hesitatingly, and my remarks must be regarded as tentative rather than conclusive.

A year and a half has gone by since the introduction of the American Copyright Act, from which some of us hoped so much, and I do not see that we are in a better or in a worse position than we were before. The manufacturing clause has not materially affected the English printer; it has driven only very little of the "making of books" out of the country, and I believe that this little will—on account of the difficulty of inducing American printers to keep type standing, and also on account of the higher wages paid to compositors on the other side—be still further reduced when English publishers have had longer experience in this experiment. The boom in the book market was discounted long before the Bill took effect, and with the exception of a dozen or so of successful novelists and one or two other

popular authors, things are now much as they were before with regard to the American market.

The colonial market (as every one knows who has had anything to do with publishing during the last few years) has, on account of heavy failures in the colonies and the general depression of trade, been steadily deteriorating, and few except cheap books find buyers in the colonies.

With our home market things are, perhaps, not quite so bad, but they are bad enough to force upon all of us engaged in the distribution of books a look round—a stock-taking of what is really going on. We are oscillating between the Scylla of those who provide us with raw material and the Charybdis of those for whom our ready-made wares are intended. Happy the "doughty Ulysses" who, steering clear of these dangerous rocks, is enabled to cast his anchor in the safe harbour of success.

Let us consider these two dangers independently and see how we can save our fragile craft from shipwreck and utter destruction.

The providers of raw material can be divided roughly into two divisions, viz., the authors, editors, and compilers of our publications, and the printers, paper-makers, binders, &c., who put the produce of the former into a saleable form. For convenience' sake let us look at the latter first, and leave the proud knights of the pen to be last (they take care that they are not least) in our calculations.

Perhaps the three classes enumerated share in equal proportion the attention of the collective London publishing world, for while the printers are the more important to the publishers of high-price books, paper-makers and binders unquestionably run the cheap-book publishers to a "nice figure" per annum. Printers' wages have increased steadily for years past until it has become imperative to employ non-union houses for work of an inferior order, such, for instance, as the setting of ordinary fiction. Higher-class printing is more expensive now than it ever was, and not only do the master printers make smaller profits, but the publishers have to pay higher prices for first-class work. The same increase in prices has taken place with very similar results among binders in London, and the only appreciable difference to the good is the fall in the prices of paper—a temporary fall, we are told, and due only to over-production and excessive competition. On the whole, it is certain that the price of book production is not less, perhaps it is higher, than it was a few years ago before the adoption of the Eight Hours Bill. It certainly is higher with all the best work, and the enormous number of books (statistically about 75 per cent.) which are printed in only small editions.

To this must be added the fact that the public are more fastidious now with regard to print, paper, and general get-up, and that they make, if not a united, in places, at least, a definite stand against the horrible stuff that they used to buy under the good-natured generalization of "books." These increased expenditures are brought about therefore by the trades union of printers, the trades union of binders, and the unconscious union of the public.

And now come our authors, who have also put themselves together in a trades union—a trades union more complete, more dangerous to the employer, more definite in its object, and more determined in its demands than any of the other unions—conducted, besides, with intelligence, with foresight, with purity of purpose, but unquestionably and avowedly against the publisher. No one has had better opportunity than myself to test the courteous spirit and fair dealing of the Authors' Society, and I will be second to none in acknowledging the services rendered by Mr. Besant and his colleagues in certain directions. But with all deference, I will say that they have done harm too—not voluntarily, but accidentally. I will

not dwell on a number of very inaccurate and very unreliable handbooks which they have published, because I do not fancy that these have penetrated very far, so that the errors they contain can hardly have become very widespread. But I will at least mention the surprise felt by our American *confères* at the lethargic attitude of the London publishers when the Authors' Society takes upon itself to judge as to the proper way a book should appear, the proper remuneration the author should receive ("if he respects himself, and if the publisher is honest"), and best of all when it calculates the cost of publication, &c., with a disregard to that heavy item—our working expenses—which is delicious in its airiness. In the latter function the position of the Authors' Society is as naïve as if we publishers were to sit down and write fiction or poetry instead of publishing what others have written.

It would lead too far, perhaps, to enter into the surprising results that have already come of advice given indiscriminately to authors. I could adduce dozens of the most comical mistakes which aspiring or comparatively new authors (helped by just a little vanity) have thus been made to fall into. Irrespective of published price of the book he was offering, I was told by an author who had just issued one unsuccessful book, that no honest publisher would dare to offer him less nowadays than twopence in the shilling royalty and something down. Another budding novelist, who had made two or three failures and had published one fairly successful book stall, declared that a member of the council of the Authors' Society had assured him that any publisher would jump at his next book if he were allowed to publish it on the basis of a royalty of 25 per cent. with a substantial sum down, &c. This advance on royalty has, to my mind, been made a subject of serious abuse. It should surely be given only to those established authors who, through reputation made, have sort of goodwill in their work. I refused to read a MS. the other day which came to me through an agent—an honest one to wit—simply because he demanded an advance on royalties for a new work by a hitherto unsuccessful author, and the book was, I was told, infinitely better than anything he had done before. I offered to consider it with a view to purchase, or to a royalty pure and simple, but I would not pay for a goodwill which I considered non-existent. My offer was refused; maybe I have lost thereby! I wonder whether my fellow publishers are with me in this.

But I must not dwell longer on the subject of our authors, except to come to the point, and that is, that their prices have gone up with leaps and bounds of late; that royalties are actually being paid which, with the increase in the cost of production, leave to the publisher barely his working expenses; and that they, as well as printers and binders, have a trades union which has formed a decided front, determined on concerted action, not perhaps against us, but for themselves.

And now come those to whom we sell our books—not the public, because we seldom reach them except through the middleman, the bookseller and the librarian. The former has, as we all know, by means of the abominable discount system, been reduced to all sorts of outside devices simply to keep body and soul together. He sells throughout the country anything that may be in demand besides books—fancy goods, stationery, newspapers, pipes, and tobacco—in fact, anything which the public will buy. I know a country town with over 20,000 inhabitants, and one bookseller only, who combines with his calling of purveyor of literature the garrulous profession of Figaro. That is more or less the condition of things throughout England and Ireland (Scotland occupying an entirely different position, and being, for the smallness of its population, a marvellously good book-market).

There are, of course, strewed over the area of England a number of excellent bookselling establishments which devote themselves to books, and books only, and surely we should help and encourage these to the very best of our abilities.

But the general rule remains that bookselling is about as profitable as the backing of horses, with less chances and similar risks. To reduce these risks to the narrowest limit is, of course, the steady aim of all engaged in the trade, and the result is that, with the exception of a small number of firms of high standing, and with a large turnover, they become daily less inclined to stock books. Our travellers visit them regularly, and, in order to get a "line," they have to offer books at reductions which amount in some instances to 50 per cent. off the published price. Those publishers who issue series at 6s., or 3s. 6d., or 2s. 6d., or 2s. find, with the increased number of these issues, a corresponding disinclination on the part of "the trade" to take up new volumes. Better terms are, therefore, offered as an inducement, with the result that we are at the present moment cutting prices to an extent that will land us all in the workhouse if we do not make some timely and united stand against this increasing danger.

It is the same with the libraries, and in their instance we are far more to be blamed than with regard to the booksellers, because most of these establishments flourish. When, for example, certain big libraries began to take large numbers of three-volume novels, they only too naturally gave preference to those publishers who would sell these novels at the price fixed by themselves. At first these terms were looked upon as secret, but they soon leaked out, and we are now requested by every little library in the kingdom to supply it on the same terms as we supply the big libraries. I cannot say in how far publishers give way in this, and whether further inroads are likely to be made by the big libraries on the present prices. One thing is certain, viz., that if they do make further demands, they will all act together, with strength and determination; while we cut one another's throat!

I have thus stated in general terms the outside dangers which threaten us. Without trespassing too much on your space, I should just like to add a word about our internal condition, and then—if I may—draw one or two conclusions. These internal conditions are simple indeed—in that they add to our growing danger. A statement of the facts will, I fancy, suffice. Clerks', book-keepers', &c., wages are higher than they were, and they are not likely to decrease—on account of the increased requirements of our middle classes. We are besides, for various reasons, compelled to employ higher-class labour than we could when the business was less complex, before there were serial issues, colonial and continental libraries, when translations were *rare avis*, and when a casual ten-pound note was the Ultima Thule of our ambitions from America, &c. We are further, on account of the rapid distribution, compelled to carry more stock than we used to do, so as to supply possible immediate demand—but with the risk of accumulating unsaleable stuff; and we have a press-list and gratis-list on our table which is growing with the rapidity of a sugar-cane. Closely connected with this is the enormous increase in necessary advertising, and the appearance of that ubiquitous gentleman the literary agent, who has to be paid by some one, and to whose keep, I suspect, a not inconsiderable quota must be contributed, indirectly, if not directly, by the publisher. However, "Genug des grausamen Spiels." Every publisher knows himself and feels daily the many extra and increasing demands that are sprung upon him from every quarter of his firmament. What, therefore, is his position? Can nothing be done to protect the interests at stake? Should we not at least grapple

with the danger before it is too late, being, as we are, in a position assailed on all hands by that most powerful of modern weapons in trade—trades unions? Let me enumerate them again. There is the printers' trades union, the binders' trades union, the authors' trades union, the librarians' trades union (in so far as they act together), and the miserable union of starving competition among our best friends the booksellers.

Let us therefore also form ourselves into a brotherly band, and stand together against the attacks and inroads that are being made on our common interests. Let it be the duty of such a body to arrange in all friendship and good feeling with the Authors' Society what percentages and profits are fair, and to see that the basis of their combined calculations represents both parties to this bargain. Let them confer with the printers about the proper rate they should be paid for such incomprehensible vagaries as "corrections," "extras," "overtime," &c. And with the binders they could easily come to an understanding. Let them further arrange with the libraries what prices are fair, when it is right that cheap editions should be issued, and what help and special advantages libraries should expect and give, with regard, for instance, to remainders, &c.

And lastly, let us not overlook a sacred duty, which is to do what we can to improve the condition of the bookseller, and to stem with sound regulations the flowing tide of discounts. I call upon the heads of my profession, of which I am only a humble minor, to look to this. Let those historic houses who are the pride of English literature take the matter in hand speedily and energetically, and I promise them that we younger ones will rally around them one and all. We want a publishers' union, a publishers' society, a publishers' club.

WM. HEINEMANN.

Literary Gossip.

THERE is no foundation for the statement, which has appeared in several papers, that Messrs. Macmillan & Co. intend to publish in the spring a cheaper edition of the complete works of Lord Tennyson. No such step is likely to be taken for several years to come.

THE discussion on the forgeries of Scottish MSS., of which we have spoken before, has, thanks to the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, entered upon a new phase. Mr. A. H. Smith, formerly clerk to the late Mr. Ferrier, W.S., has virtually confessed his share. He some years ago, so he says, got hold of some papers which Mr. Ferrier desired him to destroy as rubbish. Some of these turned out to be valuable, and the prices obtained for them by Smith tempted him to produce others not so authentic. A large collector and dealer in MSS., whose name has been accepted as a guarantee for the genuineness of those which have passed through his hands, now reveals that he accidentally discovered a quantity of these treasures in the secret drawer of an old cabinet which he purchased. Unfortunately some of the most valued of these treasures have been proved to be counterfeits. Where the cabinet came from is not yet disclosed.

MEANWHILE the spurious documents, including letters of Queen Mary, Claverhouse, the Jacobite chiefs, Walter Scott, and Thackeray, inedited poems of Burns, &c., have been for the past five years scattered broadcast over Scotland and England, the United States, and the colonies. The *Dispatch* will probably reprint in some

separate form the whole story, together with numerous facsimiles of the documents and of Smith's handwriting. It will form a useful *vade mecum* for the amateur collector of literary curiosities.

Chambers's Journal for 1893 will contain a serial novel, 'The Burden of Isabel,' by Mr. Maclaren Cobban, as well as a shorter story, 'Isabel Dysart,' by Mrs. Oliphant, and others by Mr. Manville Fenn, Miss Muriel Dowie, &c.

DR. CONAN DOYLE is engaged upon a series of 'Tales of a Doctor's Waiting-Room.'

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—

"Your readers will do well to beware of a 'first and only edition' of Mr. George Meredith's poem 'Jump-to-glory Jane,' which is being offered for sale as an edition of 'fifty copies, privately printed for friends only.' This is nothing more nor less than untrue. The author has never seen a copy. 'Privately printed for friends only' is good. But I might ask, For whose friends? For those of the author, or for those of the printer? The poem appeared originally in the *Universal Review*, October, 1889, and has been recently republished, with illustrations and by authority, under the auspices of Mr. Quilter. Therefore the private edition is neither the 'first' nor the 'only' one. The modest price asked for this production, a 'leaflet' of about four pages, varies from 5*l.* to 15*l.*, according to the taste and fancy of the vendor."

In February next Mr. Gilbert Parker will publish with Messrs. Methuen a novel to be entitled 'Mrs. Falchion.'

MR. R. H. STODDARD, the well-known American poet, will shortly publish with Messrs. Scribner a volume of essays on the English poets. The title will be 'Under the Evening Lamp.'

THE fifth edition of Mr. Eric Mackay's 'Love Letters of a Violinist,' now in preparation for the "Canterbury Poets" series, will contain a 'Choral Ode to Liberty,' and other lyrics not included in previous editions.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN & CO. will publish either before Christmas or immediately after the following theological works: 'The Gospel of Life: Thoughts introductory to the Study of Christian Doctrine,' by the Bishop of Durham; 'The Doctrine of the Prophets,' being Warburtonian Lectures, by Prof. A. F. Kirkpatrick; 'Cathedral and University Sermons,' by the late Dean of St. Paul's; 'Restful Thoughts in Restless Times,' by Dean Vaughan; 'Discussions on the Apocalypse,' by Prof. Milligan; and 'University and Cathedral Sermons,' by the Rev. J. R. Illingworth.

THE death of Prof. F. J. A. Hort is a serious loss to Biblical criticism. An excellent classical scholar, he, in conjunction with the present Bishop of Durham, constructed the revised text of the New Testament, which has been generally accepted as a conspicuous service to the criticism of the Greek Testament, although it excited the vehement wrath of Dean Burdon. Dr. Hort's other publications were few: a letter on the 'Tenure of College Fellowships' and a treatise on the 'Monogenes Theos' were about all.

MESSRS. BRENTANO write:—

"As it is commonly reported in the trade that we are 'burnt out,' may we ask, you to state in

your next issue that the Agar Street fire was at No. 4, and that we are only slightly damaged by water, and in no way to interfere with the regular carrying on of our business?"

MR. ALFRED WILCOX has retired from the editorship of the *Illustrated Church News*.

MR. F. S. ELLIS writes to correct the statement in our last week's "Literary Gossip" to the effect that the edition of Cavendish's 'Life of Wolsey' which he is preparing for publication is the first that has been made from the author's autograph MS. That was done by Mr. Singer in 1827. We should have said that the edition now being printed at the Kelmscott Press will be the first in which the author's orthography is retained, without modernization or alteration of any kind. For that purpose it has been necessary to recopy the author's MS. throughout.

DR. W. PETERSON, Principal of University College, Dundee, has interrupted his critical edition of Quintilian's 'Institutes' in order to prepare for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press an edition of Tacitus's 'Dialogus de Oratoribus.' Besides a reconstitution of the text, based on an independent study of the manuscripts, Dr. Peterson hopes to be able to throw some new light on the romance of the finding of Tacitus in the fifteenth century. The introduction will deal also with the disputed question of the authorship of the 'Dialogus.'

MR. EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, editor of the *Reporters' Magazine*, will commence with the January magazines the issue, in weekly numbers, of a shorthand edition (Pitman's system) of 'David Copperfield.' It will be uniform in size with Mr. Nankivell's shorthand edition of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.'

THE death is announced of Mr. Bridges, well known to visitors to the shop of Messrs. Williams & Norgate for his courtesy and wide information.

M. STÉPHANE MALLARMÉ will shortly publish a study on the life and works of Villiers de l'Isle-Adam, which will take the form, it is said, of a *conférence*. Perhaps this is the publication to which an eminent French critic referred the other day when he suggested that M. Mallarmé should imitate Mistral and the other dialect writers, by publishing his books with their translation into French on the opposite page.

Those who here and in the United States are interested in the study of the language of our nearest kinsmen, the Frisians, will be glad to learn how they are getting on in West Friesland. The country is seldom visited by Englishmen, except by yachtsmen, and now that we have abandoned Heligoland our contact with Frisian is small. The ranks of students of the language have also been thinned since the loss of Mr. W. J. Thoms by the death of Adley J. Cummins, of San Francisco, and latterly by that of another writer, Dr. Mathias de Vries, who had cultivated North Frisic. There are, however, still scholars on both sides of the Atlantic seriously engaged. We learn from the venerable Dr. Dirks that the national museums at Leiden are well maintained. The large collection of the Society for Frisian History, Antiquities, and Philology, of which Dr.

Dirks has been President since 1852, includes many prehistoric remains found in the explorations of the mounds. This society also occupies itself with Frisian literature, and there is, further, another society entirely devoted to the same subject. The transactions are published in vernacular Frisian, so as to keep up the vitality of the language. In many of the villages there are clubs where in the winter are represented Frisian dramas. By continued exertions the national literature has been much enriched in the last half century. The people have been much delighted by a visit from the youthful Queen of the Netherlands, who inaugurated a second museum, which is to contain the library and gallery of paintings. Besides this the society has received lately a legacy of a large collection of porcelain, glass, antiquities, and 14,000 coins. The old museum already comprised 18,000 coins, and is particularly rich in Frisian coins of the Middle Ages.

FRENCH pronunciation of English words, though wrong, is uniform. An examination of French works of reference and school-books shows how this comes about. The rules which are taught in French schools are exemplified in the well-known 'Dictionnaire Larousse,' and in this we find "High Life (ai-laif)" and "Home ruler (ômerouleur)." In similarly odd fashion is rendered an oath which is never heard in England, but which, on the authority of Beaumarchais, is said to be the foundation of the English tongue.

MR. JACOBS writes to us that only one of his Indian fairy tales which we reviewed last week is taken from the 'Katha-Sarit Sagara.' He is quite right in this, and also in saying (what was pretty obvious) that we dated the 'Katha-Sarit Sagara' wrongly. Instead of "more than two thousand years ago," we should have written "nearly a thousand years ago."

THE only Parliamentary Paper of interest this week is Answers to Questions issued by the Royal Commission on Labour, Group A, Mining, Iron, Engineering, Hardware, Shipbuilding, and Cognate Trades (1s. 6d.).

SCIENCE

Primitive Man in Ohio. By Warren K. Moorehead. (Putnam's Sons.)

THE State of Ohio has long been known to contain, especially in its southern portion, a vast number of tumuli, relics of the early American race, who, for want of a better name, have been called the "mound-builders."

Mr. Moorehead, one of the able staff of scientific explorers associated with the Smithsonian Institution, has for several years past been engaged in the exploration of these remains. The present work contains the result of his labours; but it is unfortunately incomplete, inasmuch as the more recent and important of his researches have been conducted on behalf of the World's Columbian Exhibition, and their details are not yet allowed to be made known. In another respect the work is incomplete, as it contains no map, an omission which renders it exceedingly difficult for the Englishman who does not carry in his mind the geographical features of the

State of Ohio to follow the author's descriptions. It is true that he refers his reader to the monumental work of Squier and Davis on the 'Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley' ("Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," vol. i.), which contains a series of fine maps of portions of the territory covered by mounds; but every one has not the Smithsonian series on his shelves, and even that volume contains no general key-map of the whole district, an addition which we strongly recommend Mr. Moorehead to make when the time comes to issue a completed edition of his work.

Mr. Moorehead appears successfully to establish that the mound-builders belonged to two distinct races—the earlier, long-headed; the later, intrusive and victorious, round-headed. There are traces, indeed, mainly in the exclusively round-headed territory, some eleven miles to the northeast of Cincinnati, of a still earlier race than either, whose tools were paleolithic. Of a chipped limestone pebble discovered in 1887 by Dr. Metz at the locality in question in a gravel pit, nearly thirty feet from the surface, it is said that bones of the mastodon had been found to the west side of it. It is suggested that the workers of these rude implements had to battle also with the megatherium, the mylodon, and the huge extinct bears and jaguars.

The chief seat of the dolichocephalous race is in the Muskingum valley, beginning at Marietta and proceeding up the Muskingum river, in the eastern portion of the State of Ohio. The mounds in this district differ in type from those found where the brachycephalous race preponderates. Among the objects they contain are pottery, articles of slate and cannel coal, implements of hematite, and occasionally bracelets and other ornaments of copper. Some of these are well fashioned, but in general they are inferior to the implements and ornaments found in the country of the short-headed people. The villages are smaller, and the mounds are not so lofty nor the fortifications so extensive. It is suggested that from these mounds as headquarters the long-headed race kept up a desultory warfare with the short-heads for many years, and that the copper found in the mounds may have been captured in these wars. Of this, however, there seems to be little evidence. In Clinton county, which is locally situated in the short-heads' district, a number of small mounds and small villages have been explored, which have yielded only dolichocephalous skulls and are in other respects similar to the remains in the Muskingum valley.

In Madisonville many relics of the short-headed people have been found. It has been freely explored during the last thirteen years under the auspices of the Madisonville Scientific Society and others, and an extensive collection of objects from it is deposited in the Peabody Museum. Mr. Moorehead places its inhabitants at the head of the brachycephalic race in Ohio, and suggests that the cacique controlling all the mound area of Southern Ohio had his dwelling there. Better pottery has been found there than at any other village. Copper objects of unusual form, and implements of horn, flint, stone, bone, and shell, have also been discovered in great number.

Twenty-four miles to the north-east are the remains of Fort Ancient, the largest earthwork of Ohio, nearly a mile in length from north to south, with more than 20,000 feet of wall, more than five miles of terraces, and more than ten miles altogether of artificial work. The shape which this splendid fortification has taken, by reason of the configuration of the ground, bears a curious resemblance to the map of the American continent, being divided into northern and southern forts, with an isthmus between. It has formed the subject of a monograph by Mr. Moorehead, his first work on American archaeology, to which we have already called attention in the *Athenæum*.

Chillicothe, on the Scioto river, the home of Messrs. Squier and Davis, is still the centre of the most interesting remains of the short-headed mound-builders. In its immediate neighbourhood are the "Clark works," as the original explorers called them, now designated the "Hopewell group," the Hopeton works, the Mound City, and several other sites of settlements preceding those of the Shawnee Indians. In these are found pottery of artistic design, pipes of elaborate workmanship, flint implements delicately chipped, with abundance of copper objects, mica ornaments, shells, tablets, and beads. In one place a cache of 7,232 flint discs exists, the largest accumulation yet discovered. Squier estimated the number at 4,000 only, and removed 600 as specimens. More accurate calculation shows that he might have doubled his estimate.

Mr. Moorehead's conclusion is that nothing more than the higher stage of savagery was attained by any race or tribe living within the limits of the present State of Ohio. True that the aboriginal man was fairly skilful in several arts, but in none did he excel. He was not even semi-civilized. The many fanciful theories that have represented the extinct mound-builders as possessors of a lost civilization disappear before careful study of the facts.

Mr. Moorehead is a thorough and well-equipped explorer, and the volume is adorned with some excellent and spirited illustrations, drawn by Mr. Jack Bennett.

Methods of Gas Analysis. By Dr. Walther Hempel. Translated from the Second German Edition by L. M. Dennis. (Macmillan & Co.)—This book is a valuable addition to laboratory guides to gas analysis, and the thanks of many will be due to the translator for thus making better known to English and American chemists the apparatus and the methods of Prof. Hempel. The simple and useful forms of apparatus due to Winkler and the author, and the new forms of absorption pipettes, mainly due to Hempel, have already found their way into many works and been used for technical gas analysis; but no doubt their use will be much extended now that by their aid gas analysis is simplified without impairing its accuracy. The first part of the book deals with general methods for collecting and keeping gas, the forms and manipulation of apparatus, arrangement of the laboratory, and purification of mercury. Part ii. deals with special methods, the combustion of gases, and particulars concerning the determinations of various gases. Part iii. is devoted to practical applications of gas analysis, such as analysis of furnace gases, of illuminating gas, of gases which occur in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, of

atmospheric air, and the simultaneous determination of carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen in organic substances. The last chapter is on a calorimetric method for the determination of the heating power of fuel by a modification of Berthelot's method of combustion in compressed oxygen. Under the analysis of air, Pettersson's method for the determination of carbon dioxide and water is described in detail. The book is illustrated by excellent woodcuts.

Light: an Elementary Treatise. By Sir H. Trueman Wood, M.A. (Whittaker & Co.)—The secretary to the Society of Arts has here given to the world a very simple non-technical introduction to the study of optics. For such a little book it contains a wonderfully large amount of information, well selected, and explained in a manner which appeals to the common sense of the average reader. We observe, however, a serious slip in the explanation of mirage, which assumes that rays entering a denser medium are bent further from the normal.

MEDICAL LITERATURE.

Lectures on Physiology, Hygiene, &c., for Hospital and Home Nursing. By Charles Egerton Fitzgerald, M.D. (Bell & Sons.)—These lectures were delivered in connexion with St. John's Ambulance Society, and contain much valuable information. Dr. Fitzgerald rightly insists upon the importance of nursing work, the necessity that those who undertake it should enjoy good health, have patient endurance, and be free from all romantic and nervous excitement. In many houses—in fact, in the majority of them—it will be found quite impossible to carry out all the admirable suggestions made for the efficient nursing of invalids; and the work would have been more useful if the author had remembered that small, not large, houses predominate. When the author lectures on the action of the heart, on the circulation, the functions and diseases of the lungs, he gives much interesting information; but it does not assist a nurse in the performance of her duties, and often leads to the neglect of details which contribute so much to the comfort of patients. Further, in telling nurses what drugs to apply to the throats of diphtheritic patients, what remedies to adopt in supposed cases of croup, what is the action of drugs, what are the symptoms of pneumonia, and how a house is to be drained, we think Dr. Fitzgerald is teaching them to invade the province of medical men and of engineers without having been adequately trained for either. The lectures are good lectures, with much valuable information in them; but they err, as many works on this subject err, in giving information quite outside the real work of a nurse who wishes to be a nurse and not an amateur doctor.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports. Edited by W. S. Church, M.D., and W. J. Walsham, F.R.C.S. Vol. XXVII. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—This volume opens, as many other reports have lately, with "In Memoriam" notices of those who have helped to make St. Bartholomew's Hospital and school what they are, but have joined the majority. In the sketch of Dr. Martin we read the account of a gentleman and a hero, whose fortitude under grievous affliction will be for all time a bright example to others equally tried. The death of Dr. Steavenson was not only a heavy loss to the hospital, but also a delay in the progress of our knowledge of electricity. These, like Kirkes, Warter, and others, have made the best of their opportunities, weighted as they have been with short lives and bad health. They have helped to build up the strong position of the hospital; their reward, however, sure and certain, is hidden from our eyes. Their example adds to the responsibility of our lives. The volume is an excellent one. Cases in the wards are well recorded and ably commented on, as are also cases illustrating the success of surgery before the days of chloroform

and Listerism. Specialism and recent research are not lost sight of, and the volume closes with some excellent rules for nursing diphtheria and typhoid fever. The reports are worthy of the great hospital from which they emanate. Their value could only be enhanced if various of the seniors would find time to write their impressions of the progress or commotion (which is it?) in medicine and surgery during their hospital lifetime; if they would separate the wheat from the chaff; if they would estimate the progress of the last thirty years.

GEOGRAPHICAL PUBLICATIONS.

THE new edition of the late Dr. A. Findlater's *Physiography*, edited by Dr. David Forsyth (Chambers), deserves commendation. It is adapted, almost as a matter of course, to the syllabus of the South Kensington Science Department. Several of the chapters might with advantage be amended in a future edition, as, for instance, that on map projections.

Mr. J. G. Bartholomew's *Map of Central and South Africa* (Edinburgh, Geographical Institute) has been revised up to a recent date, for it shows for the first time the results of Mr. J. Thomson's recent expedition to Lake Bangweolo, not yet published elsewhere. It does not, however, show Kampala and other forts recently established and still held in Uganda. The western boundary of Ibea or British East Africa ought not to have been shown as if it had been settled by treaty. It is true Belgium claims the thirtieth meridian as the eastern boundary of the Congo State; but we are not aware that that claim has ever been formally recognized by England, and we trust the Foreign Office will take the opinion of competent authorities before it is conceded.

Juta's *Enlarged Map of South Africa from the Cape to the Zambesi* (Stanford) was published last year, which sufficiently accounts for the fact that the results of several recent geographical explorations have not been embodied in it. This, however, affects only certain outlying parts of the vast region represented, and the map as a whole will prove exceedingly useful, all the more because of its large scale (thirty miles to the inch).

La Rappresentazione orografica a Luce doppio, by Signori Basevi and G. E. Fritzsche (Rome, Istituto Cartografico), should interest those persons who have recently discussed the merits of the Ordnance Survey. The authors reject both the vertical and the oblique light in the delineation of the hills, and propose to substitute a combination of both, based upon a framework of horizontal contours. Maps of the environs of the Gran Sasso d'Italia are given in illustration of the three methods. In practice the "double light" will be found to yield the same results as the "oblique light," excepting that the contrasts between the surfaces exposed to the light and those lying in the shade will be less striking.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

A NEW comet (*g*, 1892) was discovered by Mr. Brooks, of the Smith Observatory, Geneva, N.Y., on the 20th ult., near the common boundary of the constellations Coma Berenices and Virgo, and moving in a north-easterly direction. It was described as bright, circular, 1' in diameter, with some eccentric condensation, but no tail. It was observed at Vienna and Copenhagen on the night of the 24th, and at Hamburg on that of the 26th, when its place was R.A. 13° 6', N.P.D. 73° 52', so that it does not rise until about 4 o'clock in the morning. The comet (*f*, 1892) which was discovered by Mr. Holmes on the 6th ult. is still situated a little to the east of β Andromedæ, and is now less than three-quarters as bright as at the time of discovery. The slowness of its apparent motion has made it very difficult to determine accurately

the elements of its orbit, and the first conjecture (mentioned in our "Notes" for the 19th ult.), that they resembled those of Biela's comet, turns out to be quite erroneous and merely derived from the circumstance that the line of sight at the time of discovery intersected the orbit of Biela. Prof. Kreutz, of Kiel, has published in *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 3130, the result of a calculation by which he finds that the comet is moving in an elliptic orbit with a period of about seven years, and that it passed its perihelion as long ago as June 10th, at the distance from the sun of 2·15 in terms of the earth's mean distance. Its distance from us now is 1·78 on the same scale, and continuing to increase.

Two more small planets were discovered on the 20th ult., one by M. Charlois at Nice, and the other (photographically) by Dr. Max Wolf at Heidelberg. These raise the number of discoveries this year to twenty-one, and the whole number of planets known to 345.

Prof. Krüger has calculated the orbit of the comet (e, 1892) which was discovered by Prof. Barnard at the Lick Observatory on the 12th of October, and finds that it is elliptic with a period of about ten and a half years.

We have received the number of the *Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani* for September, the principal article in which is Signor Mascari's account of the solar spots and protuberances observed at Palermo during the year 1891.

It is with a melancholy interest that we have before us the Second Glasgow Catalogue of Stars, which was passed for press by the late Prof. Grant shortly before his death on October 26th. The catalogue contains places of 2,156 stars (chiefly selected with a view to the investigation of proper motion), deduced from observations made during the years 1886 to 1892, and reduced to the epoch 1890.

We have received a second edition of Klein's valuable star-atlas, with letterpress translated and brought up to date by the Rev. E. M'Clure (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge). It will be remembered that it was by the aid of this atlas that Dr. T. D. Anderson, of Edinburgh, discovered the famous Nova Aurigæ last winter. Various improvements have been introduced into the new edition; but by an unfortunate slip the editor speaks (p. 8) of the nearest fixed star as being distant only about four billions of miles.

M. Flammarion has published an elaborate work under the title *La Planète Mars et ses Conditions d'Habitabilité* (Paris, Gauthier-Villars & Fils). The writer considers that "l'habitation actuelle de Mars par une race supérieure à la nôtre est très probable," and we have no wish to disturb him in this view, though we fear that the superior intelligence of the Martians is not likely to be of much benefit to ourselves. His work is, however, very interesting as giving an able résumé of observations bearing upon the physical condition of the planet best known to us with the exception of the one the habitability of which does not admit of doubt.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES.

At the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association a committee was appointed, consisting of three members of the Anthropological Institute, with Dr. Joseph Anderson for Scotland, and Prof. Haddon for Ireland, to organize an ethnographical survey of the United Kingdom. The Committee has since been enlarged by the addition of three delegates of the Society of Antiquaries of London (Mr. Milman, the director of that society, Mr. George Payne, and General Pitt Rivers), three delegates of the Folk-lore Society (Mr. Gomme, the president of that society, Mr. Edward Clodd, Mr. Joseph Jacobs), Dr. J. Wright, of Oxford, representing the Dialect Society, and Prof. John Rhys for the principality of Wales. The Committee proposes to record for

certain typical villages and the neighbouring districts (1) physical types of the inhabitants, (2) current traditions and beliefs, (3) peculiarities of dialect, (4) monuments and other remains of ancient culture, and (5) historical evidence as to continuity of race. As a first step it is desired to form a list of such villages in the United Kingdom as appear especially to deserve ethnographic study, out of which a selection might afterwards be made for the survey. The villages suitable for entry on the list are such as contain not fewer than a hundred adults, the large majority of whose forefathers have lived there so far back as can be traced, and of whom the desired physical measurements with photographs might be obtained. The Committee has addressed a circular, signed by Mr. Francis Galton, as chairman, and by the secretary, to persons known to the members to be capable of affording help in this preliminary search, requesting them to do so by furnishing the names of any such villages in the districts with which they are acquainted, with a brief account of their several characteristics; but as this circular may not reach many who would be in a position to give the information required, we have been asked to make the matter more generally known by the insertion of this note in the *Athenæum*, in the hope that many of our readers may be able to comply with the Committee's request, and thus assist in a work which gives promise of both interesting and useful results. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Ethnographic Survey, British Association, Burlington House, London, S.W.

Part IV. of the fifth volume of the *Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie* contains the first portion of an article in German on the inhabitants of the Nicobar Islands, founded on Mr. E. H. Man's researches, by Dr. W. Svoboda, with illustrations from drawings by the author. The principal shorter communication is by Dr. Seler, in the same language, on Old Mexican shields.

We have received specimen numbers of a new monthly magazine of Pomeranian folk-lore, edited by O. Knoop and Dr. A. Haas, and published at Stettin. It proposes to deal with (1) folk-sayings and tales, (2) *Märchen*, (3) jokes and frolics, (4) songs and rhymes, (5) puzzles and games, (6) language and dialect, (7) superstitions, (8) customs and usages. Mr. Knoop opens with a collection of folk-tales of Pomerania relating (1) to serpents and dragons, (2) to plants. Dr. Haas describes a game of "standing on the broad stone." Dr. A. Brunk contributes a collection of seven songs sung on the anniversary of Colberg, and four other Pomeranian folk-songs. Some riddles and counting rhymes are also recorded, very similar to those prevalent in various parts of our own country.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Nov. 24.—Sir J. Evans, Treas. and V.P., in the chair.—Notice of the ensuing anniversary meeting was given, and the list of officers and Council nominated for election was read.—The following papers were read: 'Ionic Velocities' by Mr. W. C. D. Whetham,—and 'The Theory of the Compositions of Numbers' by Major MacMahon.

Nov. 30.—Anniversary Meeting.—Lord Kelvin, President, in the chair.—The auditors of the Treasurer's accounts presented their report.—The Secretary read the list of Fellows deceased and Fellows elected since the last anniversary.—The anniversary address was delivered by the President, and the same was ordered to be printed.—The medals were presented as follows: The Copley Medal to Prof. R. Virchow (received by the Foreign Secretary); the Rumford Medal to Mr. N. C. Duner (received by the Swedish Minister); Royal Medals to the Rev. Prof. Pritchard and Mr. J. N. Langley; the Davy Medal to Prof. F. M. Raoult; and the Darwin Medal to Sir J. D. Hooker.—The officers and Council were elected as follows: President, Lord Kelvin; Treasurer, Sir J. Evans; Secretaries, Prof. M. Foster and Lord Rayleigh; Foreign Secretary, Sir A. Geikie; Other Members of the Council, Capt. W. de W. Abney, Sir B. Baker,

Prof. I. B. Balfour, W. T. Blanford, Prof. G. C. Foster, R. T. Glazebrook, F. D. Godman, J. Hopkinson, Prof. J. N. Lockyer, Prof. J. G. McKendrick, W. D. Niven, Dr. W. H. Perkin, Rev. Prof. B. Price, Marquis of Salisbury, A. Sedgwick, and Prof. W. A. Tilden.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Nov. 28.—Right Hon. Sir M. E. Grant Duff, President, in the chair.—*Special General Meeting* for the purpose of revising the rules of the Society in accordance with resolutions of the Council; when, among various changes in the rules, the following was endorsed by the Fellows: "Every Ordinary Fellow shall, on election, be required to pay £5. as admission fee, and £2. as first annual subscription, or may compound either at entrance by one payment of £5., or at any subsequent period on the following basis: Fellows of twenty years' standing and over, £2. 10s.; of fifteen years' standing and under fifteen, £1. 10s.; of ten years' standing and under ten, 20s. And no Fellow shall be entitled to vote or to enjoy any other privilege of the Society while in arrear. Honorary and Corresponding Fellows are not required to make any payments."—The meeting also endorsed, by a large majority, the action of the Council in admitting ladies to the membership of the Society.—*Evening Meeting.*—Right Hon. Sir M. E. Grant Duff, President, in the chair.—Fifteen ladies and ninety-four gentlemen were elected Fellows.—The paper read was 'To Lake Bangweolo and the Unexplored Region of British Central Africa,' by Mr. J. Thomson.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—Nov. 23.—Dr. Phené, V.P., in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. Watkiss Lloyd on the central groups of the eastern frieze of the Parthenon. The present argument indicated that previous attempts at explanation were defective in principle as failing to account for the correlation of the groups in marked symmetry as well as for the special selection of the members associated in each. The solution propounded was to the effect that the seated divine or demonic figures on one side are representatives of the primordial sacred traditions of Athens connected with the Erechtheum, and those on the other side in like relation to Eleusis; that this combination had reference to the incorporation of the townships of Attica—of Eleusis pre-eminently with Athens—which was commemorated annually in a festival of Athene. This union was an achievement of statesmanship ascribed by Thucydides to the combined power and policy of Theseus, and is recognized by him as the true basis of the great career of Athens. Attention was especially drawn to the clue to the correction of names hitherto assigned by the recognition, by Prof. Michaelis, of the object held by the boy whom he still calls Eros, as a parasol—in truth, the sacred symbol which was in custody of the priests of the Erechtheum and paraded by them at the festival of Skiaephoria.—Mr. A. S. Murray, Mr. J. W. Bone, and the Chairman joined in the discussion.

LINNEAN.—Nov. 17.—Prof. Stewart, President, in the chair.—Mr. F. W. Leslie was elected and Mr. F. J. Clark was admitted a Fellow.—The congratulatory address to the Rev. L. Blomefield (see *Athenæum*, No. 3395) was signed by those present.—Mr. G. Murray then exhibited and made remarks upon a genus of Algae (*Halicystis*) new to Britain, the species shown being *H. ventricosa*, from the West Indies, and *H. oralis*, from the Clyde sea area.—Mr. B. Shillito exhibited an artificial cluster of the fruit of *Pyrus sorbus* as put up for ripening by cultivators in Sussex.—A paper was then read by the Rev. Prof. Henslow on a theoretical origin of endogens through an aquatic habit, based on the structure of the vegetative organs. The lecture, which was very fluently delivered, was profusely illustrated, and drew forth some interesting criticism from Prof. Boulger, Messrs. Henry Groves, H. Goss, and P. Geddes, to which Prof. Henslow replied.—On behalf of Mr. G. Lewes, who was unable to be present, a paper was read by Mr. W. P. Sladen on the Buprestidae of Japan, upon which some criticism was offered by Mr. W. F. Kirby.

MICROSCOPICAL.—Nov. 16.—Dr. R. Braithwaite, President, in the chair.—Mr. T. F. Smith read a note on the character of the markings on the Podura scale.—An account of Mr. W. West's paper, 'On the Freshwater Algae of the English Lake District,' was given by Mr. A. W. Bennett, who thought it was an exceedingly important contribution to our knowledge of the Algae of that district.—Mr. F. Chapman gave a résumé of part iii. of his description of the 'Foraminifera of the Gault of Folkestone.'—Mr. C. H. Gill read a paper 'On a Fungus internally parasitic in certain Diatoms,' illustrating his subject with specimens and photomicrographs.—Mr. Bennett said he had observed structures, which might be of a similar character, in desmids. He should like to inquire if by the term *spores* Mr. Gill did not mean

zoospores. Had he observed them to be possessed of vibratile cilia? And could he form any idea as to how they came to be inside the diatoms? It was possible that they might be transmitted in some way by inheritance, and if so, that might account for their great abundance in particular species.—Mr. Gill said that the question how these things got into diatoms was still under consideration. As to the movements of the spores, he was not perfectly certain that they moved at all more than a very short distance from the orifice of the beak. He had not yet had time to examine them sufficiently to be able to say whether they were ciliated or not. Diatoms were by no means the tightly shut up boxes they were supposed to be; they could not live or absorb nutriment unless there was some sort of passage, and he thought there was very likely a means of penetration all over them to admit of the diffusion of fluid throughout.—Mr. E. M. Nelson called attention to the fine adjustment of Messrs. W. Watson's Van Heurck microscope, which he said had been wrongly described as being on Zentmayer's plan. He found that Messrs. Watson's adjustment was provided with spring stops which obviated all the evils complained of in the Zentmayer system; the adjustment screw was also left-handed, so that the apparent and real motions were made to coincide, which was of great advantage when working with high powers.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 29.—Mr. H. Hayter, President, in the chair.—The paper read was 'On the Manufacture of Small Arms,' by Mr. J. Rigby.

PHYSICAL.—Nov. 25.—Prof. S. P. Thompson, V.P., in the chair.—Messrs. T. J. Fry, A. G. Beesemier, jun., and E. F. Fournier d'Abbe were elected Members.—The following communication was made: 'Experiments in Electric and Magnetic Fields, Constant and Varying,' by Messrs. Rimington and W. Smith.

FOLK-LORE.—Nov. 23.—Mr. G. L. Gomme, President, in the chair.—Prof. Haddon exhibited three photographs of a curious mask worn by the women taking part in marriage ceremonies in co. Mayo, and sent a short note on the custom.—Mr. T. F. Ordish drew attention to the assistance which photography could render the science of folk-lore by obtaining faithful representations of the movements in mumming plays and morris dances, and urged members and others during the approaching Christmas period to endeavour to get photographs of costume and acting.—Mrs. Robinson exhibited an 'oceanah,' a figure used in African magic and witchcraft; and Mr. M. J. Walhouse read a paper by Mrs. Robinson descriptive of the superstition and the figure.—Mrs. Gomme exhibited a 'kern baby' of an extremely conventional type from Huntingdonshire.—Mr. C. Billson read a lengthy paper 'On the Easter Hare.' Two remarkable Leicestershire customs—one municipal at Leicester, the other social at Hallaton—were the commencing points of Mr. Billson's researches. A prominent figure in both these customs was the hare, and Mr. Billson proceeded to compare them with the ceremony of sacrifice at the spring festival and the totemistic beliefs among early people. After a most thorough investigation into the parallel beliefs and ceremonies connected with the hare in other countries, Mr. Billson concluded an able argument in favour of considering the Leicestershire customs as survivals of the same cult.—Mr. Naaké, Dr. Blind, Dr. Gaster, Messrs. Jacobs, Green, Nutt, and Taylor, and the President took part in discussing the papers.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON.** Royal Academy, 4.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
Royal Institution, 5.—General Monthly.
London Institution, 5.—'Reading as a Recreation,' Mr. E. Gossé.
Engineers, 7.—'The Shortlands and Nunhead Railway,' Mr. A. G. Dryer.
Surveyors' Institution, 8.—'Rights of Way,' Mr. J. D. Walker.
Archaeological Institute, 8.—'Does Law in Nature exclude the Possibility of Miracle?'
Society of Arts, 8.—'The Generation of Light from Coal Gas,' Lecture III, Prof. W. Lewes (Cantor Lecture).
Victoria Institute, 8.—'Principles of Rank among Animals,' Prof. J. H. Huxley.
Institute of British Architects, 8.—'Some Problems of Town and City Developments,' Mr. W. C. Street.
Geographical, 84.—'Travels in a Portion of the Kalahari Desert,' Mr. E. Wilkinsen.
West Africa, Capt. H. L. Gallwey.
TUE. Chemical Society, 8.—Mr. J. Rigby's Paper on 'The Manufacture of Small Arms'; Ballot for Members.
Biblical Archaeology, 8.—'Note on the Different Egyptian Versions of the Bible,' and 'The Book of the Dead' (continuation), Mr. P. le P. Renouf.
Zoological, 8.—'Observations on the Genera of the Alcyonaria with Descriptions of one New Genus and several New Species,' Mr. S. J. Hickson; 'Convolutions of the cerebral Hemispheres in certain Rodents,' Mr. F. E. Beddoe; 'A New Monkey from South-East Sumatra,' Prof. Collett.
WED. Archaeological Institute, 4.—Edward the Confessor's Gold Cup, Mr. G. C. Cruttwell; Mr. W. Lovell; 'Romaneque Architecture,' Mr. J. Park Harris.
Entomological, 7.—'Further Observations upon Lepidoptera,' Mr. E. H. Pouton; 'Effects of Temperature on the Colouring of *Pieris napi*, *Vanessa atalanta*, *Chrysophanus philicus*, and *Tanacra punctata*,' Mr. F. Merrifield; 'Notes on Hydroptilidae,' Mr. J. Park Harris; 'Descriptions of two New Species,' Mr. K. J. Morton; 'Some Neglected Points in the Structure of the Pupa of Heterocerous Lepidoptera,' and

- their Probable Value in Classification, &c.' Dr. T. A. Chapman; 'A New Species of Butterfly of the Genus Calinaga from Siam,' Mr. J. Compton Melville.
WED. Geological, 8.—'Note on the Nufenham-stone (Leptonite Alps).' On some Schistose 'Greenstones' and allied Hornblende Schists from the Pennine Alps, as illustrations of the Effects of Pressure-Metamorphism, and of the Structure and Composition of Metamorphic Rocks in Crystalline Schists from the Binnenthal,' Prof. T. G. Bonney; 'Geological Notes on the Bridgewater District in Eastern Ontario,' Mr. J. H. Collins. Society of Arts, 8.—'The Chicago Exhibition, 1893,' Mr. J. Dodge.
British Archæological Association, 8.—'Have I found the Roman Station of Hibernia?' Mr. C. H. Compton.
Royal Academy, 4.—'Chemistry,' Mr. A. H. Church.
THURS. Royal Institution, 4.—'Music,' Sir J. Barnby.
London Institution, 7.—'A Plea for Catholicity of Taste in Music,' Sir J. Barnby.
Electrical Engineers, 8.—Annual General Meeting.
MATHEMATICAL. 8.—'Notes on Couchy's Condensation Test for the Convergence of Series,' Prof. M. J. M. Hill; 'Additional Note on Secondary Tucker Circles,' Mr. J. Griffiths; 'Notes on Determinants,' Mr. J. E. Campbell; 'A Geometrical Note,' Mr. H. Tucker.
FRI. Antiquaries, 8.
Japan, 81.—'Japanese Fans,' Mrs. Salway.
Physical, 5.—'Colour Vision,' Mr. W. B. Croft; 'Magic Mirrors,' Prof. S. F. Thompson; 'Diffusion of Light,' Dr. Sunpauer.
Astronomical, 8.

Science Gossip.

THE presidential address which Lord Kelvin delivered at the anniversary of the Royal Society last Wednesday was not so entirely official as it has often been, the main part of it being devoted to purely scientific matters, and especially to the subject of terrestrial magnetic storms. The speakers at the dinner in the evening, which was held, as usual, at the Whitehall Rooms, were, besides the President, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, Mr. Arthur Acland, Prof. Huxley, Prof. Raoul, Mr. Langley, Sir James Paget, the Swedish Minister, and Mr. Alma Tadema.

MR. JOHN WATSON is editing a volume on ornithology in relation to agriculture and horticulture, by various writers. The contributors include Miss E. A. Ormerod, the Rev. F. O. Morris, Mr. Harrison Weir, Mr. J. H. Gurney, jun., M.P., Mr. J. H. Nelson, Mr. O. V. Aplin, &c. Messrs. Allen are the publishers.

MR. W. MATTIE WILLIAMS, who died suddenly last Monday morning at his house at Neasden, was an industrious and popular writer on scientific subjects, especially in relation to heat. The book by which he is best known is 'The Fuel of the Sun.' Much of his work was contributed to serials, and a volume of his collected essays was issued ten years ago, under the title of 'Science in Short Chapters.' Another popular work was his 'Chemistry of Cooking,' based on a series of papers contributed to *Knowledge*, the papers themselves having grown out of lectures delivered at Birmingham in the early days of the Midland Institute. Mr. Williams did good service in another direction by calling attention to the advantages of Norway as a summer resort for tourists, and 'Through Norway with a Knapsack' is a popular favourite.

THE conversazione of the Royal Microscopical Society last Wednesday evening was such a success as to justify the Council in the change which permitted the presence of ladies. Some of the exhibits were of unusual merit and interest.

THE Principal of King's College and the Dean of the Medical Department have presented a report to the Council of the College on the Bacteriological Department, an account of which we gave on the installation of the laboratory. It is very satisfactory to learn that a large number of workers, not only from London and the provinces, but from our colonies and other countries, have been attracted to it. It is estimated that the number of students during the present year will be about one hundred.

FINE ARTS

MINIATURES.—AN EXHIBITION of 200 MINIATURES, illustrating the History of the Art, and including examples of Cooper, Hilliard, Hosmer, Pitt, Penel, Isabey, Zincke, Humphrey, Cosway, Palmer, and Hogarth, is now open at the FINE-ART SOCIETY, 148, New Bond street.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

Through Connemara in a Governess Cart, by the Authors of 'An Irish Cousin,' illustrated by W. W. Russell from sketches by Edith G. Somerville (Allen & Co.), is one of the brightest

and gayest books of the season, and, in its very unpretentious way, one of the most successful. It aims only at giving amusement, and fulfills its aim perfectly. As it first appeared in the *Ladies' Pictorial*, it was probably penned for the delectation of girls; but an older public will better appreciate the youthful freshness and Irish fun that weave a delightful magic round the simple adventures of the two cousins. The characters are extremely well sketched, and the local colour suggested with considerable skill, and a far better idea of Connemara is gained from this light-hearted volume than from the dull pages of many guide-books teeming with statistics. Every one who has had the privilege of driving through Connemara, in a governess cart or otherwise, should renew his experiences in these entertaining pages, and those who have not should seek to learn from them why Ireland, with its wet weather and bad inns, is the most delightful of all countries for a holiday. The illustrations are below the rather high average of the *Ladies' Pictorial* (a paper whose mysterious title has availed itself freely of the feminine privilege of inconclusiveness), but the narrative is so spirited and racy that few readers will care about the woodcuts.

In the preface to *Artistic Travel; or, Normandy, Brittany, &c.*, by H. Blackburn (Low & Co.), Mr. Blackburn naïvely tells us that "the majority of these pages have already appeared in print, but some of the aspects of places and incidents of travel are so changed that the descriptions will have fresh interest in 1892." Mr. Blackburn thus innocently anticipates the day (may it be long deferred!) when he will have become a classic alongside of the Beckfords, Eustaces, and Swinburnes of a former age. That day has not yet come, and our author's chronology seems at fault now and then, or why should he be so far "out of time" as to speak of the Kabyles as "yet unconquered in Algeria"? The cuts are commonplace and poorly engraved.

Haddon Hall, illustrated by W. E. Cooke (Philip & Son), consists of a number of weakly drawn lithographs of no artistic or antiquarian value whatever.—*The Book of Delightful and Strange Designs*, by Mr. A. W. Tuer (Leadenhall Press), is an interesting and often beautiful collection of Japanese stencils, including a stencil plate of paper, cut and perforated in the manner customary for decorating cotton or crape dress fabrics for both sexes in the Island Empire. Apart from the compiler's whims and affectations of geniality, his letterpress, while it tells no secrets, nor indeed anything that is new, describes clearly the Japanese processes of cutting stencils and using them, including the functions of those fine silk threads which splitting discovers in the native paper, and which are really curiosities of Eastern craftsmanship and dexterity of touch. The letterpress is in English, French, and German, and its illustrations are extremely varied, worthy of study and of praise. Without diagrams to aid us, we could not further elucidate the subject of a book which should attract most of our readers.

Prue and I. By G. W. Curtis. With Drawings by A. E. Sterner. (Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.)—Dr. Oliver W. Holmes, rather than Sterne, is responsible for such essays as the late Mr. Curtis's rather prosy romance, which originally appeared in 1856. In a score or two of little vignettes and more ambitious than sound larger page cuts, Mr. Sterner has illustrated the letterpress with more tact, neatness, and dash than technical skill.

MR. WALTER LEARNED'S translation of *Ten Tales*, by François Coppée (Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.), with fifty illustrations from pen-and-ink drawings by Mr. A. E. Sterner, and an introduction by Mr. Brander Matthews, is a pretty book and pleasant withal. Nobody who knows M. Coppée's work is ignorant of the charm of his prose tales; indeed, there are those who think them better things than his poems; and though

selection from their number (which is considerable) might, no doubt, result in a different batch from Mr. Learned's, he could hardly go, and has not gone, wrong. It is true that, unless very unusual skill and pains are bestowed upon the version, translation of prose *contes*, as distinguished from *nouvelles*, is likely to fall nearly as far short of the original as translation of verse itself. Mr. Learned has made a few slips, in some of which he has been assisted by his printer. It will go hard but "Père Bugrand," of an Algerian general, should be "Père Bugeaud," and we should not, if we had been Mr. Learned, have translated *bottes à l'écurie*, "the boots of an equerry." In the first place, it suggests larceny; in the second, to be rigidly literal it should be "the boots of a female equerry"; and, lastly, it means, as a matter of fact, nothing but "riding boots." Still, these things will happen. The illustrations are very good in their way, and Mr. Brander Matthews is interesting in his introduction. The bulk of it shows his usual knowledge, and the tail of it has that little note of warning against the wicked English man of letters without which, to English men of letters, any *plat* of Mr. Matthews's would be as bread without salt.

The Rat's Plaintiff and Niponese Rhymes (Low & Co.) are printed, illustrated, and coloured in the Japanese manner, and so successfully that one might at first take them for productions of the Island Empire, where, indeed, at Tokio and Yokohama, as well as in Fetter Lane, they are published. "The Rat's Plaintiff" professes to be translated from the Chinese by Mr. A. Little, who, with much cleverness, has given an English dress to this protest against Tom and Malkin and their ruthless doings; but, apart from the illustrations, the local colour of the legend seems to have been translated out of it. "Niponese Rhymes" hails from Hong Kong and Singapore as well as the above-named cities, and Mr. M. St. John-Bramhall claims as his work the collection of neat verses, which might as well have been printed with cuts in the English style. Of these let us say that their colouring is pleasant and very Japanese.

Mr. Pennell has obtained permission from the *Illustrated London News* to reprint, under the title of *The Jew at Home*, the very clever and hasty sketches he made to illustrate certain "impressions" of the Jews he met with during a recent trip in Russia and Austria. Mr. W. Heinemann has sent us them in a neat little volume, but Mr. Pennell had better have let his smart, but severe notices lie where they had served their purpose.

Songs and Echoes, by F. E. Weatherly, illustrated by E. Barnard (Tuck & Son), contains sentiment, and more sentimentality. Miss Barnard's part in the book has been reproduced in coloured plates, and vignettes printed in black, as of a black-lead pencil, with the verses. The whole is disagreeable, because of its neat and emasculated character, the mechanical smoothness and feebleness of the technique, and the poverty of the designs, which, nevertheless, are quite in keeping with such verses as these:—

She was standing by the gateway
Of the little Norman farm,
With a bunch of guelder roses
Upon her dainty arm.

She was dreaming of the roses
That she plucked last year with him,
When the angelus was ringing
Across the twilight dim.

"Printed at the Fine-Art Works in Saxony," being part of the publication line of this work, makes us wonder what the Saxons must think of our art and poetry. The binding is the best part of the book.

The Arabian Nights, arranged by H. M. Burnside, illustrated by W. and F. Brundage and J. W. Grey (same publishers), does not deserve much attention. Miss Burnside has edited some of the immortal stories till most of

their vitality and movement is gone, and all that local colour which is one of their greatest charms. The smaller illustrations, where they are not trivial, are tolerably clever; of the larger and coloured ones the less we say the better. *As Told by the Butterfly*, and *Flowers I Bring, and Songs I Sing*, two volumes by various authors and illustrators (same publishers), may be grouped with the above, but though mechanically executed and reproduced, the designs, especially the flowers and butterflies of the borders of the former, are somewhat more praiseworthy, for they are prettier. The German style of colour printing prevails in all these works.

—*Dorothy Q., &c.*, by O. W. Holmes, illustrated by H. Pyle (Gay & Bird), gives, in the author's preface, the Bostonian version of the famous so-called "tea-party" in the harbour of Boston, U.S., and the body of the book consists of his highly spirited verses upon that event and on the fight at Bunker's Hill. Of these we need not speak, they are well known. Mr. Pyle's cuts, though very rough and, technically speaking, quite incompetent, and much less worth having than previous productions of his, are, some of them at least, not below mediocrity. Others are simply rubbish.

We have failed to discover what can have induced Mr. T. F. Unwin to publish the text of Mr. C. G. Leland's *The Hundred Riddles of the Fairy Bellaria*. Others may be more fortunate. Of the illustrations we have no doubts: no one can care for them.—The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has published *Proud Peacock, and other Tales*, and *The Snow Duchess, and other Stories*, two collections of edifying legends, well told and tolerably well illustrated by coloured cuts, silhouettes, and outlines.—*L'Aventurière, Comédie en Vers*. Par É. Augier. Compositions de G. Dubufe, Eaux-fortes de A. Morse. (Paris, C. Lévy.) Of the text of this reissue, of which the *avertissement* gives the history, we have not to speak; the exquisitely laboured etchings, being portraits at whole-length of Madame Baretta, Madame Plessis, and other persons who accepted parts in the piece, alone concern us. They are wonderfully finished, solid, skilful, and delicate.

NEW PRINTS.

We have received from Messrs. Frost & Reed, of Bristol, an artist's proof of a mezzotint engraving by Mr. J. Finnie, his original work, entitled "By Pastures Green and Quiet Waters," representing a shallow stream, partly shaded by trees and partly sparkling in the sun's light, which is supposed to glow in a sky that is loaded with clouds and softened by a tender haze. It is difficult—we were going to say, almost impossible—adequately to delineate such a splendid effect as this in mezzotint, of which the characteristic darkness and lack of limpidity hamper the artist exceedingly. So far as his method permitted, Mr. Finnie has displayed his artistic power and his sense of the charms of his subject. His plate is acceptable and altogether creditable to him.

Among the wonders of modern art-workmanship are the facsimiles in colours published by Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Co. after pictures of various kinds. We have already introduced to our readers several capital examples of them, but none has surpassed the latest, a reproduction (of extreme delicacy and spirit) of a work of Mr. Boughton, entitled "Love in Winter," a comely, dark-haired damsel dressed in a rose-coloured cloak and black hat, standing, with her hands in a grey muff, near a frozen lake. We do not remember the picture. The print is charming, at once delicate, fresh, and pretty. From the same firm come their *Estatapes miniatures*, Nos. 400 to 421, reductions, uniform in size and texture, from various pictures, more or less noteworthy, such as "Le Gouter des

Faneurs" of Dupré, the voluptuous "Nymphe des Eaux" of Chaplin, the "Moïse exposé" of Delaroche and his "Bonaparte franchissant les Alpes," various dogs by M. O. de Penne, and "Arrêtez!" by M. Béraud. They are intended to serve as presents and ought to be acceptable.

The Berlin Photographic Company has been fortunate in reproducing Mr. Alma Tadema's "Love in Idleness." Though not the best reproduction of a Tadema we owe to this firm, it is a good one. From the same company we have received a similar reproduction of Sir F. Leighton's "Perseus and Andromeda." The effect of the transcript is like a mezzotint. Translated in this soft fashion, some of that crispness and spirited touch which was noticeable in the picture has, of course, been lost. But as a translation into a new medium there is not much to be regretted in this homogeneous and harmonious version.

The Berlin Photographic Company also sends us what is called an "artist's proof," which, we suppose, really means an impression of a plate of which the painter, by signing it, signifies his approval as an adequate reproduction of his picture. It represents the "Earthly Paradise" of Mr. Alma Tadema. Our readers will remember the picture. The print is a photogravure, and, though somewhat soft and lacking a little of the vigour of the original, must be accepted as, according to the standard of the process employed, a good version of a painting which, charming as it was, we do not reckon among the masterpieces of the renowned Academician, although it is a really decorative and sympathetic piece of work. We have likewise from the same firm a large photogravure (25½ in. by 35½ in.), from the original at Dresden, of Raphael's "Madonna di San Sisto." It gives the whole of the composition, of which, we are told, no other photogravure has been produced, although, of course, M. Braun's full-size transcripts in another photographic process of the whole as well as of parts of it are as well known as they are admirable. The photogravure before us is very fine and successful indeed. It renders the expressions well, and, although it is too dark, and there is some lack of limpidity in the rather monotonous stronger shadows, will be appreciated by students who cannot afford the tremendous sums asked for choice impressions of the finer sort of line engravings from this Madonna. The ordinary engravings in line, however large and costly, are not intrinsically and artistically so good as this photogravure, of which, of course, the price is comparatively trivial.

PUBLISHERS AND BOOKBUYERS.

34. Queen's Gate Terrace, Nov. 15, 1892.

LATE in September last I received from Mr. George Allen the prospectus, which I enclose, of the intended reproduction of Prof. Ruskin's article on the "Poetry of Architecture" (of 1837), offering, as you will see, 300 special edition copies at two guineas each.

On the 27th of September I called in Bell Yard and put down my name for a two-guinea copy. I wished to pay at the time, but was asked to wait till the work was ready for delivery.

Some three weeks afterwards I received a printed post-card informing me that the scope of the work was enlarged, and the price of the special copies raised to 2l. 12s. 6d., and asking me to "kindly confirm my order."

I wrote immediately (October 22nd) suggesting that the publisher's raising the price could not affect those who had already contracted according to the prospectus, and that "I confirmed the order, but at the price then asked."

To that I received, on October 24th, a letter in answer, evading the real point at issue, but pointing out that the book would be a few pages longer, 288 pages, when the prospectus had said 272 (the prospectus really having said "about 272 pages," as you will see); and the

letter ended, "Unless, therefore, I hear to the contrary, I will cancel your order, as you desire."

I wrote back (October 25th) asking how any such desire could possibly be inferred from my letter, which had said the exact contrary, and denying a right to raise the price after contracting to supply a copy at two guineas, and intimating that I should enforce the contract, if necessary. To that letter I have received no reply.

I am advised that there can be no doubt as to the law of the case, but that the amount is too trifling to justify legal proceedings, and hence my appeal to your columns.

Of course I fully admit the right of a publisher to raise the price to *future* subscribers; but, small as the amount in dispute is, it seems to me that the principle is important, whether a publisher can alter, or *rescind*, an existing contract with his subscribers without their consent. Is there any recognized custom or tradition in this particular business which would justify him in breaking the ordinary rules of business as recognized in all other walks of life?

The whole correspondence is at your service; but I think I have given an accurate *résumé* of it.

R. MILLS.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
WINTER EXHIBITION.

(First Notice.)

THIS exhibition is more than ever misnamed, for it is not in any proper sense of the words an exhibition of sketches and studies; on the other hand, it is superior to most of its forerunners. Indeed, it is a proof of the resources of the Society that it can, without suffering materially, afford to do without contributions from many of its leading members,—Mr. Alma Tadema, for instance, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Boyce, Mr. Bulleid, Mr. W. C. T. Dobson, Mr. Carl Haag, both the Moores, and Mr. E. J. Poynter. These artists could by themselves furnish a good exhibition, and it is very fortunate for the Society that it can do so well as it has done when they do not send anything.

Two distinguished painters stand out conspicuously, but each in a different way. Of these Mr. W. Holman Hunt is the more liberal and more ambitious contributor; on the other hand, Mr. A. W. Hunt is content to send a single drawing, but it is exquisite and brilliant even for him. Mr. Holman Hunt exhibits not fewer than eleven works, some of which, the drawings in silver-point numbered 247 and 254, his admirers may wish he had kept at home; they exhibit his peculiar affectations and his most narrow views of draughtsmanship. The eleven are placed together at the south side of the room, but the whiteness of some of them and the intense and splendid coloration of the rest are injurious to the collection as a whole. We have neither time nor inclination to discuss the mystical elements in the most ambitious of them. The large and crowded composition the artist names *Gloria in Excelsis* (No. 249) represents the vision of the shepherds in such a landscape as Mr. Hunt has often given to the world. While the spiritual heaven is opened before their eyes, their sheep are collected round them in a matter-of-fact way which is as characteristic of the artist's mind as is possible, and combines, exactly as Albert Dürer attempted to do in the great picture at Vienna, a soaring flight of imagination and the simplest pastoral prose. The vision in heaven of the good and brave is so far in keeping with the earthly elements below that each saint, hero, and angelic presence, even the highest, has much solidity, actuality, and definition. On the other hand, even the most prosaic parts of the design are inspired with a devotional passion which touches the visitor who gives himself time to do justice to the most powerful and original work in the gallery. There is, no doubt, much that is unpictorial

in it; and it will be prudent to defer offering any elaborate opinion on its merits until the larger picture it is rumoured the artist contemplates is before the world. If carried out after the fashion of the drawing now in view, it would be by much the most arduous and the boldest of all his efforts. Close to this striking work is a most characteristic pen-drawing of *The Hid Treasure* (245), a capital specimen of greatness in style and learned draughtsmanship employed on an inconsiderable conception and rather stiff design. *The Impudent Neighbour* (250) is a picture in small, marked by some striking merits, such as researchful draughtsmanship, unwearyed study of light and shade, careful modelling in a broad and noble style, and an effect which is solidly studied, exceedingly luminous, and simple as nature. These precious elements are not the less precious because the painter's conception of the single figure urgently knocking at the door of a house of stone is indubitably prosaic. The splendid views of *Jerusalem, from the West* (246), which glows with colour; *Tyre, the New Era* (251), a poetic mystery; and *Bethlehem, from the North* (253), with its quaint suggestions of Sir John Maundeville, are serious and learned works, compared with which most of the drawings in this exhibition resemble a collection of shadows.

As we have said, Mr. A. W. Hunt is represented by a single picture only, but that is so brilliant and pure that only Turner, to whose school it belongs, has surpassed it. *Armbeth Fell* (163) is in every way admirable, and in drawing *per se* a masterpiece such as we seldom meet with. Delightful to artistic eyes, it is well fitted to serve as a sort of touchstone of the art knowledge of those who visit the exhibition; and at the private view everybody crowded to look at it.—Two more pieces, remarkable for colour, verisimilitude, and splendid illumination, may be noticed next, although their subjects and materials differ as widely as possible from Mr. Hunt's. These are Mr. Wallis's *A Persian Vase* (327) and *A Damascus Vase* (333), superb specimens of the precious lustre ware to which the artist has lately devoted much time and travel. Less interesting to us, although vigorous and finely coloured, is Mr. Wallis's picture of the outside of a Cairene shop, part of an *Oriental Bazaar* (307). Luminous, homogeneous, and powerful in tone as this drawing is, it yet seems to us a little too much inspired by the lamp, and rather heavy in touch and tint.

There is admirable colour as well as subtly graded tone of a thoroughly realistic sort, yet touched with that poetical mystery which does much to elevate things of every day, in Mr. H. M. Marshall's striking *Cannon Street* (11), which is a good specimen of a numerous class of his works. The best and freshest of the fourteen he has contributed this year is a departure from his wonted manner, *A Remnant of Chelsea* (9), bright, broad, pure, and high in tone. The old red houses and the dark church tower, illuminated by the golden light of an autumn afternoon, are charmingly harmonized with the cool white and grey of the stone-faced embankment at their feet. *Knightsbridge* (45), a more familiar example, fine as it is, is mannered. There is more novelty about the cooler tints of the twilight study of *The Temple* (173), which, like No. 9, shows how fortunately the painter can depart from the track he has trodden so long and well. The same may be said of *Grey Evening, Battersea* (312).—The *Silent Tarn* (1), by Mr. C. Rigby, on the other hand, is a sober and poetical study in low tones, and broad and modest.—Much gayer is Mr. N. Tayler's *Golden Gatherings* (3), a picture of which the subject has become hackneyed in this gallery, yet praiseworthy for its extreme delicacy, softness, and elegance.

Fin-Arg Tossiy.

A TRANSLATION, with commentary and notes, by Mr. P. le P. Renouf, of the Egyptian 'Book of the Dead' has been commenced in the *Proceedings* of the Society of Biblical Archaeology. A number of friends having requested that it should be published in a separate form, and Mr. Renouf having consented, a limited number of copies upon large paper, with illustrations, will be issued. It is calculated that this will not exceed eight parts, the first of which is nearly ready.

TO-DAY (Saturday) Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Co. have on private view a collection of drawings by Mr. H. B. Brabazon, to see which the public will be admitted on Monday next.

THE announcement that the Government has made an arrangement with Mr. Tate is welcome, although we may be doubtful of the accessibility to the public of the contemplated site at Millbank. Something, too, might be urged against a scheme which seems to imply, for the present at least, the creation of a fresh art centre, besides those already existing at Bloomsbury, Trafalgar Square, and South Kensington, to say nothing of Burlington House. By-and-by it is to be presumed that all the national collections of modern works may be housed at Millbank, where let it be hoped the site is not so damp as it is said to be. For this the two and a half acres now referred to are, however, not nearly enough. That the new institution will be subordinate to the National Gallery is a good thing. We are not quite sure that for any sum that the London County Council will be justified in expending, large blocks of artisans' dwellings can be erected in architectural keeping with the new galleries. A considerable outlay, too, will be required for approaches to Millbank in its altered circumstances. On the other hand, the galleries in Trafalgar Square will benefit greatly by the enlargement which removal of part (not all, we observe) of the barracks in their rear to the new site will render possible. Still it is strange to read that a locality which was always declared to be unhealthy and unfit for convicts is to be appropriated to the clients of the County Council, troops, and works of fine art. We retain our opinion that the South Kensington site was, on the whole, the best which could be had, especially as the authorities of the National Gallery could have ruled just as effectively there as the Trustees of the British Museum contrive to do in their Natural History Department.

MR. STREETER has invited visitors to a "reception" in his Museum of Precious Stones, at 18, New Bond Street, to-day (Saturday), from 3 till 5, and from 7 till 11 o'clock, p.m.

OF a statement concerning himself in Mr. A. T. Story's 'Life of John Linnell,' which has been more than once quoted in reviews of that work, Mr. E. Gambart writes complaining:—

"Mr. Story declares on p. 42, vol. ii. of his lately published book: 'Linnell used to relate an amusing anecdote of Gambart. He gave Mr. Holman Hunt a commission, when he went to the Holy Land, for a large picture similar to his "Light of the World." Mr. Hunt painted for him "The Scapegoat," which, when delivered to the worthy dealer, so greatly disappointed him that he refused to accept it. Visiting Linnell about this time, Gambart complained of his treatment by Hunt, and said: "I wanted a nice religious picture, and he baited me a great goat." The dealer had reason afterwards to regret his refusal of the picture, as the artist obtained a larger price for it than he had agreed to give.'"

To this Mr. Gambart adds:—

"Referring to the paragraph in which my name appears, I have only to say that I never commissioned 'The Scapegoat'; it was never offered to me; I never repudiated a commission. So far my recollection is sure, but I go further if, as I believe, the Goat Picture preceded 'The Saviour in the Temple' by the same artist. I should add that I did not even know Hunt at the time—my attention was

first drawn to his works by 'The Light of the World.' At this period I had not published any religious subject, and I recommended it to all the other publishers as a work which would have a great success. None of them seemed to care for it, and it was only long after that, when I then knew Hunt, I expressed my surprise that it was not engraved. 'Well,' was his answer, 'if you so like it, I can get the loan of it, and my copyright price is 200 guineas.' I at once accepted the offer, and it has been my most successful publication, and would have been a fortune but for the hundreds of thousands of piratical photographs of my engraving which were sold, notwithstanding that I prosecuted more than twenty of the pirates. I gave Hunt 5,500l. for 'The Saviour in the Temple,' which, at the time, was the largest price ever paid for any English picture.—*Au Consulat d'Espagne*, Nice, November 18th, 1892."

Of course our Correspondent's last statement is erroneous.

AT the Peiraeus parts of four sepulchral stelæ have been found in some excavations for a new building. The first represents the bust of a youth in chiton and himation; the second a woman standing, with, on her right, a boy; the third, a small column with the inscription Εὐκλείου Ζωτίου Θεοσαλονικέων θυγάτηρ; the fourth, the head of a woman, beautifully carved, with peculiar coiffure, bearing the inscription in large letters of the Roman period: Ζωτίου Ζωτίου Οὐρθεύ Φίλων Οὐρθεύ γυνή.

DURING excavations in Florence there have been found the ruins of a Roman bath, a hall, a splendid doorway, and two rooms with beautiful mosaics. A Roman villa has been unearthed near Cambridge.

MUSIC

THE WEEK.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Saturday Concerts.

MR. WILLIAM WALLACE, a young composer born in 1860 at Greenock, whose name has been favourably mentioned on more than one occasion in the *Athenæum* in connexion with efforts of a somewhat ambitious nature, was represented in last Saturday's Crystal Palace programme by a symphonic poem entitled 'The Passing of Beatrice,' and founded on, or, more properly speaking, suggested by, the thirty-first canto of Dante's 'Paradiso.' Mr. Wallace has written his own analysis of the work, and this was printed in the programme book. The opening words are as follows: "This symphonic poem deals with an episode which Dante touches upon very slightly in the 'Paradiso.' Its treatment here is emotional rather than descriptive." This, of course, entitles the composer to have his work regarded as abstract rather than programme music. It is in one extended movement, for the most part gentle and dreamy, and intensely Wagnerian in phraseology, full closes being almost as conspicuous by their absence as in the Prelude to 'Tristan und Isolde.' The Scottish composer cannot be recommended for his close adhesion to the methods of the Bayreuth master, but his ability is undeniable, and he may be encouraged to persevere. Other native composers of the present generation have commenced by following slavishly in the wake of the modern German movement, and have subsequently and successfully asserted their independence. The remaining orchestral items in the scheme were Schumann's Symphony in c, Gluck's Overture to 'Iphigénie en Aulide,' with, of course, Wagner's close, and the same composer's Dance of Blessed Spirits from 'Orfeo.' Miss Adelina de Lara's rendering

of Beethoven's Pianoforte Concerto in E flat was refined and delicate rather than powerful, and the talented young pianist would probably be heard to more advantage in works requiring less masculine force and energy. The vocalist was Mlle. Giulia Ravagli, who made her first appearance at these concerts. She sang "Che farò," almost as a matter of course, and with equal artistic success "Non più di fiori" from Mozart's 'La Clemenza di Tito.'

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

FREDERIC FRANÇOIS CHOPIN. By CHARLES WILLEBY. (Sampson Low & Co.)—No composer of the present century has received so much attention from biographers as Chopin, but still it cannot be said that Mr. Willeby's book is superfluous. Liszt's essay is simply a splendid rhapsody; Karasowski's 'Life and Letters,' though valuable, is not free from errors; and Mr. Niecks's exhaustive work is too compendious for many who, attracted by the music of this singularly gifted artist, would wish to make acquaintance with his personality. The present author, or rather compiler, says that his endeavour has been "to put forward a true, concise, and unexaggerated account of the composer's life, and to point out some of the most characteristic features of his work." In this he has fairly succeeded, for he has consulted the best authorities; and although the sketchy and imperfect analysis of the music may not be of much value, all debatable points connected either with Chopin's career or his compositions are stated fairly and without dogmatic assertions. The literary style is somewhat amateurish, not to say careless, such passages as the following being inexcusable: "It was often in his mind to do the wisest and the kindest things; but how often did he do them? and simply because he allowed himself to be swept away by others who were more strong-willed than himself." Printers' errors are also by no means few; but, in spite of these minor defects, we can recommend the book as generally trustworthy, and commendably free from the hero-worship which has defaced so much written concerning a musician whose life, as well as his utterances, offers strong temptations to stray into the field of romance.

MUSICAL REMINISCENCES, PAST AND PRESENT. By DR. WILLIAM SPARK. (Simpkin & Co.)—The title and the contents of this volume are alike singular, the most remarkable feature of the latter being the intense personality which pervades Dr. Spark's writing from first to last. The inordinate development of the "Ego" is only tempered by the constant allusions to Henry Smart, whom the author apparently finds it as difficult to keep out of his book as Mr. Dick did the head of Charles I. out of his memorial. In his fiery preface Dr. Spark leads us to expect that his treatment at the hands of the Leeds Festival Committee will be largely dealt with; but prudently this sore point is lightly dismissed, with the implied assertion that he in considerable measure was responsible for the foundation of the festivals, and an expression of regret at the limited use of the organ sanctioned by the present conductor. The most useful portion of the volume is that which deals with the organs of Germany and this country, this being a subject which Dr. Spark understands, and can, therefore, discourse upon in sensible fashion. The remarks upon modern composers, more especially Berlioz and Wagner, are about as valuable as those upon the menus of dinners to which the writer was invited. Such misprints as "Reitz" for Rietz, and "Zilberman" for Silberman, and many others of the same character, show editorial carelessness; but, although the book will scarcely repay perusal, it is fairly amusing.

RICHARD WAGNER EN CARICATURES. PAR JOHN GRAND-CARTERET. (Paris, Larousse.)—This is a companion volume to the same compiler's 'Bismarck' and 'Crispi, Bismarck, et la Triple Alliance,' and contains 130 reproductions of French, German, English, and Italian caricatures of Wagner and his works, together with genuine portraits, facsimiles of letters and music, and original designs by J. Blass, Moloch, and Tiret-Bognet. M. Grand-Carteret had an almost inexhaustible field for selection, and his own share in the book is confined to explanations of the caricatures, together with such biographical details, notes on the master's works and on the Bayreuth performances, as seemed advisable. The remarks evince impartiality and even kindly feeling towards Wagner, and are commendably free from Gallic prejudices.

WE have also received *History of the First Cardiff Festival, 1892*, by W. H. Souley Johnstone, revised by W. A. Morgan (Novello, Ewer & Co.), a readable and instructive volume, with portraits and facsimiles; *Das Drama Richard Wagner's, eine Anregung*, by Houston Stewart Chamberlain (Leipzig, Breitkopf & Härtel), an intelligent essay written in excellent German by an English author; and *Carols for Christmaseide*, compiled and arranged by the Rev. G. R. Woodward (Pickering & Chatto), a series of twelve mostly unfamiliar carols from the thirteenth to the eighteenth century.

MUSICAL GLOSSY.

IT is unofficially announced that Sir Augustus Harris intends to form a permanent orchestra for London, to be available for concerts when not required at the opera. If he carries out this project the enterprising manager will greatly add to the debt of gratitude which musicians already owe to him. The nearest approach to a force of this kind in London was in Sir Michael Costa's time, the Neapolitan conductor always insisting upon the engagement of players whom he knew and trusted.

MR. LEE WILLIAMS, who has been for some time engaged on bringing Arnott and Lyson's 'History of the Three-Choir Festivals' up to the present date, has made such progress with the work that it will probably be issued in the course of next year.

THE CONCERTED WORKS IN THE PROGRAMME OF LAST SATURDAY'S POPULAR CONCERT WERE SCHUMANN'S QUARTET IN E FLAT, OP. 41, NO. 2, AND BRAHMS'S TRIO IN B, OP. 8 (THE REVISED VERSION). SIGNOR PIATTI REPEATED LOCATELLI'S SONATA IN D, AND MR. LEONARD BORWICK, WHO IS GENERALLY EXCELLENT IN SCHUMANN'S MUSIC, GAVE A THOUGHTFUL AND INTELLIGENT RENDERING OF THE 'CARNAVAL.' MADAME ALICE GOMEZ WAS QUITE SATISFACTORY AS THE VOCALIST.

ON MONDAY THE CONCERTED ITEMS WERE DVORAK'S QUARTET IN E FLAT, OP. 51, A FINE AND EFFECTIVE WORK, NOTWITHSTANDING ITS EXTREME LENGTH; BRAHMS'S CONCISE SONATA IN D MINOR FOR PIANO AND VIOLIN, OP. 108; AND CHOPIN'S INTRODUCTION AND POLONAISE BRILLANTE FOR PIANO AND VIOLONCELLO, OP. 3. MISS FANNY DAVIES SELECTED AS HER SOLO MENDELSSOHN'S PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN B MINOR, OP. 35, NO. 3, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PLAYED BEFORE AT THESE CONCERTS. IT MORE NEARLY RESEMBLES, AS REGARDS THE FUGUE, THE STYLE OF BACH THAN ANY OTHER OF THE SERIES. MISS NANCY MCINTOSH SANG AIRS BY MASSENET, HENSCHEL, AND SCHUBERT WITH CHARMING EXPRESSION.

THE ROYAL AMATEUR ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY GAVE THEIR FIRST CONCERT THIS SEASON LAST SATURDAY AT ST. JAMES'S HALL, UNDER MR. GEORGE MOUNT. CONSIDERING THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE WORK, THE RENDERING OF GOETZ'S SYMPHONY IN F WAS HIGHLY CREDITABLE, THE ADAGIO BEING ESPECIALLY WELL PLAYED. OTHER ITEMS WERE A SELECTION FROM THE BALLET MUSIC TO MOSZKOWSKI'S LATEST OPERA 'BOABDIL,' AND AUBER'S OVERTURE TO 'THE CROWN'

Diamonds.' Mlle. Janotta played some pianoforte solos, and the Queen Vocal Quartette contributed some part music which, with the exception of two items by Brahms, was not wisely chosen.

At the concert of the Royal College of Music on Tuesday afternoon the most important item in the programme was Spohr's Septet for piano, strings, and wind, a work very seldom heard, and not yet in the repertory of the Popular Concerts.

On the evening of the same day the Musical Guild gave their third concert at the Kensington Town Hall, the principal items being Schubert's Quartet in A minor, Op. 29; Rheinberger's Pianoforte Quartet in E flat, Op. 38; and Dr. Hubert Parry's Partita in D minor for piano and violin.

Mr. DANNREUTHER gave the concert postponed from February 16th on Tuesday evening. The programme included Prof. Stanford's Quintet in D, Op. 25; Dr. Hubert Parry's Sonata in A for pianoforte and violoncello; Dvorak's Terzetto for two violins and viola, Op. 74; and Brahms's Quintet in F minor, Op. 34.

Mr. DANNREUTHER announces his twenty-second series of concerts to take place on January 12th and 26th and February 9th and 23rd. The programmes are, as usual, interesting, and include a quartet for pianoforte and strings by H. Walford Davies, Dr. Hubert Parry's third pianoforte trio, a new pianoforte trio by E. Kreuz, and many other more familiar works.

THE two pianoforte recitals announced to be given by Herr Schönberger on the 22nd and 29th ult. were both abandoned owing to unavoidable circumstances.

WEDNESDAY being St. Andrew's Day, the usual concerts of Scottish music were given at the St. James's and Albert Halls, the former by Mr. Ambrose Austin and the latter by Mr. William Carter.

A CORRESPONDENT asks us to state that the oratorio concerts to be given in Bristol on April 14th and 15th next are not connected in any way with the Festival organization, but are those of the Bristol Choral Society. To those who are aware of the rivalries in musical matters in the Western city the importance of the correction will be apparent.

IT is now decided to hold another musical festival at Cardiff in 1895, and a sub-committee has been appointed to secure some new works, if possible, by eminent composers.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

MON.	Covent Garden Opera, 7.30, 'Carmen.'
	Popular Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
	Mme. Jeanne Douste de Fortis's Pianoforte Concert, 8, Prince's Hall.
TUES.	M. Paderevski's Pianoforte Recital, 3, St. James's Hall.
	Covent Garden Opera, 7.30, 'L'Amico Fritz' and 'Cavalleria Rusticana.'
	Stock Exchange Orchestral Society's Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
	Royal Amateur Orchestral Society's Concert, 8, St. Andrew's Hall.
	Messrs. Essex and Cammeyer's Concert, 8.30, Princes' Hall.
WED.	Miss Clara Osmond's Pianoforte Recital, 3, Steinway Hall.
	Covent Garden Opera, 7.30, 'Faust.'
	Ladies' Ballad Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
	Royal Choral Society, 'The Golden Legend,' 8, Albert Hall.
	Mr. A. Carl's Guitar and Vocal Recital, 8, Steinway Hall.
	Wind Instrument Chamber Music Society's Concert, 8.30, Princes' Hall.
THURS.	Covent Garden Opera, 7.30, 'Irrungen.'
	Mr. Michael Mackway's Concert, 8, Princes' Hall.
	Subscription Concert, 8.30, Steinway Hall.
FRI.	Hampstead Popular Concert, 8, Vestry Hall, Haverstock Hill.
SAT.	Royal College of Music Performance of Gluck's 'Orpheus,' 2.30, Lyceum Theatre.
	Popular Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.
	Crystal Palace Concert, 3.
	Fest. Office Orphan Home Concert, 8, St. James's Hall.

DRAMA

Grammatic Gossip.

THE revival at the Princess's of 'Hoodman Blind,' by Messrs. H. A. Jones and Wilson Barrett, took place, it appears, in opposition to Mr. Jones's wish. Though powerfully acted when it was first produced, it did not rank among Mr. Jones's happiest efforts; and when

now given with a cast of no remarkable strength its weakness becomes more apparent. Mr. Bassett Roe, who replaces Mr. Willard as the villain, is respectable, but lacks the power of his predecessor. Mr. Balmain, who succeeds Mr. Wilson Barrett, plays in conventional fashion, but does not look the part. Mr. George Barrett repeats his original creation of a rustic blacksmith; and Miss Sara Mignon makes a favourable impression as the heroine.

'FROM GULF TO GULF,' the first of Mr. Henry John Smith's dramas to find its way to the English stage, was given on Tuesday afternoon at the Avenue Theatre. It is an attempt at the poetical drama, as that term was understood in the days of Sheridan Knowles, a class of work as hopelessly out of fashion as a morality. Its story is violent without being dramatic, and its language is turgid and ineffective. Through an act of dishonesty on the part of her father, and a second of folly on the part of her lover, Eveline, the heroine, dismisses her lover, Clarence Faulkland, and marries the Earl of Montreal. The rejected youth makes a friend of his successful rival, and under a disguise and an assumed name enters his house. Impostor as he is, he succeeds in alienating from the earl all his friends, steals his wife's jewels, and creates a good deal of mischief. Ultimately he is shot by a police officer, and makes an edifying end. The action passes in the last century. A fairly competent interpretation was given by Messrs. Thalberg, A. Wood, and others, though the heroine was played in too lackadaisical a fashion. The whole was received with favour.

'THE LOST PARADISE' is the title of the Adelphi novelty, to be produced, it is anticipated, on the 22nd inst.

THE Comedy, which closed on Saturday last, will reopen on Monday with Mr. Brookfield's adaptation of 'Divorçons.'

TO-NIGHT sees the last performance at the Criterion of 'The Old Lady' of Mr. Haddon Chambers. 'Agatha,' by Mr. Isaac Henderson, first seen at a series of afternoon representations last spring, will be revived on Thursday, with Misses Winifred Emery, Olga Nethersole, Mary Moore, and Minnie Terry and Mr. Herbert Waring in principal parts.

MR. TOOLE has once more returned to his own theatre and resumed his part in 'Walker, London.'

A NEW one-act play by Mr. Neville Doone, in which the author and Miss Estelle Burney will appear, is promised at the Garrick Theatre.

'ARISTOCRACY,' a comedy by Mr. Bronson Howard, which has been given successfully at Palmer's Theatre, New York, is likely before long to find its way on to the English stage.

'TROOPER CLAIROUETTE,' an adaptation of 'Les Vingt-huit Jours de Clairoquette,' now running at the Folies Dramatiques, Paris, will be produced by Mr. Edouin at the Opéra Comique.

THE second representation of the Independent Theatre during the present season will be given on Friday evening next at the Royalty Theatre, when will be produced 'Widowers' Houses,' announced as a realistic didactic play by Mr. Bernard Shaw.

MISS JULIA MARLOWE has played in San Francisco Julia in 'The Hunchback,' Parthenia in 'Ingomar,' and other pieces, and seems to be making in America an impression kindred to that caused by Miss Mary Anderson.

UNFAVOURABLE reports are received of the condition of Mr. Edwin Booth, the state of whose health is said to cause much uneasiness among his friends.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—R. B.—W. S. L.—C. E. V.—W. T.—W. W. C.—C. F. S.—E. D. G.—G. C. M.—received.

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